THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

An Illustrated Weekly Magaz
Founded Aº Dº 1728 by Benj. Frank

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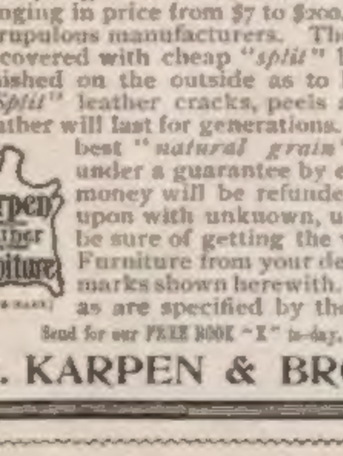

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THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

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"WAR IS HELL"

DRAWN BY JAMES PRESTON

Martial Glory as It Looks Without the Limelight

BY RICHARD BARRY

WE WENT yesterday to the foremost firing line, where all the venom of war was concentrated in a score of yards among a dozen men. There we saw how the besiegers of Port Arthur are besieging it, how they live, what manner of men they are, and some of the facts of modern warfare which those who want to know about the humanity of science had better not read. Before we went an officer led us to a bomb-proof on the Japanese side of the great valley across which we were to go to gain the captured fort.

"Look!" said he, turning over his hyposcope, "the way is about a mile and a half. The real danger is in the fort itself, but if you are very careful to crawl with your heads low you are safe. If you decide to go you must relieve our authorities from all responsibility for your lives."

Across the valley a puff of white spat out a tongue of flame; a shell crashed into the escarpment below us. From across the valley came the intermittent puffing of outposts. A misshot bullet lapped up a patch of dust twenty paces to our right.

"Well, gentlemen, will you go? It's a quiet morning. We had better start soon, if at all, for the sun is in their eyes now; soon it will be against us, and then they can pick us off like flies."

Frederic Villiers, the war artist, was with me. "What do you say?" he asked. "It's time to measure risks. Think what you'll get out of it. A correspondent dead is of no use to his paper, and people remember him as a fool who got shot in some reckless venture. Remember, you're going into bullet fire for the first time. You've had shell fire only up to now, and shell fire is to bullets what a blue-bottle fly is to a tiger mosquito. Forbes used to have a supreme contempt for shell fire and a supreme respect for bullets. A shell buzzes and blows—a bullet flits in quietly, spits through an artery, the heart, the head—and it's all over. Their rifles fire pointblank at 200 yards, and up where you want to go the lines are but forty yards apart. They can pick off a ten-cent piece at that distance. Remember, if your head shows so much as an inch above that parapet you're only good to sniff at when the wind blows from you, for these people have no extra stretcher for your useless carcass."

Villiers can say these things. Somewhere in his London studio is his Order of St. George which the Czar gave him for audacity at Plevna. Also some seven other Governments have decorated him for fit war behavior. He is an expert on battlefields.

"But," said I, "think of what there is up there—the bloody angle, scene of the death of 3000 men; heaps of unburied slain; trenches made of corpses; sentries firing; the living sleeping, eating, working among their dead comrades; the enemy on three sides, with this single line of supply and retreat down which only four men can march abreast. This captured fort is to the siege of Port Arthur what Nanshan is to the campaign—its decisive battle. It is the wedge Japan is driving into the heart of Russia, and we'll be on its tip. When the nations hear the truth about this fort—the assault that captured it, the odds against which it was fortified and held for six weeks—it will be the marvel of the age. Think! Would you miss standing on the apex of the world?"

"I was a youngster myself once and I'm not old now," replied Villiers. "They fake these things in London almost as well as I can do them in the field, so why risk my bones? But I'm as good as a Japanese officer or an American reporter. Hitherto we've been chaperoned to write; but now we have become war correspondents. It smells of the old days: Forbes, Cameron, Pierce, McGahan, Jackson, Burleigh, and that crowd of gay devils. Lead on!"

Perhaps you will be more interested in Villiers to know that he is supposed to be the original of Kipling's character, Dick, the artist, in The Light that Failed.

So we went into the chipmunk's burrow, up through the cornfields, frowned on by a hundred thousand guns, menaced by two armies, until we nestled in the ragged hole Japan had torn in Russia's impregnable last stand. Laterally down the line of our advance, but high over our heads, shells often rammed their harsh bewilderment, and we could hear them strike, sometimes rods, sometimes miles away. How like a live thing a shell snarls—like some wild beast, in ferocious glee, thrusting the cruel fangs in earth and rock, rending livid flesh with its savage claws, and its breath fetid with poison powder, scorching the autumn wind! Most always it fizzes and funks in shameful waste. Bullets are the nasty things—a who-whitt, a dry spat, a thin hole drilled in a frightful way, as snakes sling their venom in sly and easy scorn. When we got half-way up, and into the angle, so that Russian trenches were on three sides, a number sped about us. Hardly a minute but one passed over our heads.

Down in the Chipmunk's Burrow

THE situation looks well in print. Yet we were in little danger. Our wits kept—we were safe. For this let us profoundly thank the engineer who built that siege parallel—a cunning, masterful Yankee of the East, whose name as a military engineer must be handed down to future generations of technical students. He had taken advantage of every rise in the ground and of every depression. Of corn stubble he made a drapery, of hillocks a screen, of ravine an ambuscade—until Nature so aided him that she, and not the Japanese infantry, was the assaulting force against those heights beyond.

We walked twenty metres apart, for, should we by any chance lift our heads together and be sighted in a party, the Russians could drop a bit of shrapnel over us. Otherwise, we might have been off for a morning stroll down a country lane. We crouched as we walked, for the trench was built for Japanese, who average a few inches less in height than a foreigner. The distance as the crow flies was little over half a mile; we went nearly a mile and a half. At one side ran a telephone wire, staked down at intervals with broken, rusty rifles. At every angle a sentry saluted, stepping forth grimly from a dugout. Half-way up we passed a stretcher bearing a body, the face covered with coarse matting, sewn roughly—a corpse of the night before. Farther on came a soldier with his arm in a wet, crimson sling. Half an hour before, feeling secure after days in the ominous place, he had passed into a ravine he thought safe, but out of the path chosen by the clever engineer. He was in the Russian fire zone, and presently a shell fragment smashed his arm. From a dozen to fifteen were lost that way every day.

Across the valley we halt at the foot of a hill and then turn into the fort. Chloride of lime is sprinkled here and there, and a bone sticks out of the trench wall. I look closely. It is a human femur. From it projects a heavy coil of rubber-insulated cable. The officer explains that this formed the electric communications with the barbed-wire entanglements through which we are passing, and that on the day of the fight it was charged, so that when the Japanese pioneers tried to cut the wire with pincers they were prostrated with the shock and had to wait for glove-handled tools. Beside is a long strip of bamboo, torn and shattered. This was carried to the attack by two soldiers who with it tossed into the fort a short strip of bamboo stuffed with gun-cotton. This, exploding, tore a hole through which the men could charge. It was a more effective bombardment than the shells. As we turned the corner we came upon the men, and at last we saw the besiegers of Port Arthur, where they were living, 200 yards from the Russian trenches, in the famous redoubt where enough men have been killed to cover the place four deep with corpses.

The officer took up a pick lying in the trench. "Look!" said he. "The point was sharp as a grindstone could make it to begin with, but in some places, you know, the rock is hard, and——" he would apologize. He was very sorry we should find the picks in such bad condition. He was always apologizing. He apologized for the length of the way, the heat of the sun, the annoyance of the shells. But the boys in khaki smiled on. Word passed as to who we were, and they greeted us dumbly, spread out their pitiful small blankets, pulled from obscure coats and corners their precious sweetmeats, advanced the cigarettes that mean more than beef to a soldier, offered us their still more precious tea. All over them was written their joy in being recognized, in having some one share their hardships.

Death on the battlefield is the height of this soldier's ambition, but not uncleanliness on the battlefield—and all the time we sat there I was aware of a pervasive, sickening odor, something strange, something frightfully offensive.

"What can it be?" I said as it bore in upon me and I felt suddenly nauseated.

"Well, you know, in the hurry of building these trenches, in the night, under fire, a few dead bodies—only a few—were rolled into the escarpment. We very much regretted it——" The officer apologized profusely, but they had been under fire ever since, and the trenches could not be torn down. So they stood—human walls! "But I can assure you there is no smell now. The first week, in the hot sun—ah! then I should not have liked to bring you here."

As I leaned against the wall something crushed, like the snap of a pencil, under my back. I leaped, in alarm, to my feet. As I turned around a blue coat, which I had pushed back in my fatigue, fell over the skeleton of a hand, and at my feet dropped the joint of a forefinger. Villiers pulled me to my knees.

"Look over there," he said, and pointed beyond the trench, where I saw fresh earth heaped up. "It is the brow

of the Russian works," he continued; "but look in between—that pit of uniforms." A mound of soiled, tattered clothes, higher than a man could stand and longer than a company street, lay before us, not fifty feet away. At the base, facing me, detached from the rest, a hideous skull leered. "Unburied dead," Villiers said, "hugging the ground, sent back into the earth from whence they came."

Then again the officer apologized. Yes, there was no chance to bury the dead. Under constant fire for six weeks, between hostile lines, they slowly rotted away until only bones and rags remained—Russian and Japanese inextricably together on the scene of the last desperate Russian stand, where was concentrated all the machine-gun fire of both sides.

Wounded and dying had been mixed with dead. No succor was possible. A general must count his men as fighting units, and he could not afford to pay a dozen good lives for one injured. We turned to go—stomach and heart sick—but the boys in khaki smiled. They were used to it. Just then the postman paused. He had a handful of cards, scrawled over with loving messages.

Afternoon Tea on the Firing Line

AS WE saw how complete the service was—mail delivered under the shadow of guns, and as a man goes on to the firing line to offer up his life—we suddenly came to the telephone, which made us think how near we were to all we held dear. That line was connected with headquarters, headquarters with Tokyo, Tokyo with New York and London. I suddenly saw myself ringing up the editor to catch an edition:

"Hello! Just arrived at the Eternal Dragon. Quiet this morning. Russian sortie last night. Repulse. One Japanese, eighteen Russians lost—three wounded between the lines, calling for water——"

"Hold on, what's that?"

"Wait a minute till I stop this infernal racket!" Down with the receiver. To the colonel: "Can't you stop that battery a minute? I'm at the 'phone."

"All right, editor. Wounded man says—hold on a minute! It's that blasted volley-firing. All right. I was saying, a wounded—look out, here comes a shell!"

We turned another corner and came upon the commander of the regiment—a lieutenant-colonel, stern-faced, with that eternal smile, a countenance nationally characteristic. He welcomed us to his shelter between two walls—which the Russians had built and which our shells destroyed. His staff—a captain and a major—sat cross-legged on one side. We sat on a red-blanketed bench on the other. Cross-legged, on his red blanket, he was no better fitted than his men. At his side, on a nail, hung his sword and cap. Behind him, suspended from two wires, was the regimental flag in a plush case. It is thirty years old, has been in eighteen battles, and is all but gone from bullet fire. To the regiment it is a sacred emblem. This is the illustrious Seventh Regiment which captured the Eternal Dragon, after losing all but ten per cent. of its number, and which now, after a month with the reserves when its ranks were replenished, is back for a week on sentry-duty. So intense is the service there, one week in four is all a single regiment can stand. We were served with tea in daintily lacquered cups, and then the lieutenant-colonel passed sake and tea, asking permission to drink our health.

"Where is the colonel?" I asked the officer. Then he apologised again. He was sorry he couldn't oblige me, but unfortunately the colonel had been killed about twenty yards from where I then sat. His body had been cremated within three paces of my present seat. Just beyond the tent I could see his grave, should I look.

I leaned out and, in a niche of the wall, saw a plain white stick ideographed in black. At the base was a bottle of flowers and a Chinese pumpkin. It contained the ration a soldier calls "iron," and some sweetmeats beside a can of water. Then we knew what some living soldier had done. The ghost might come wandering back in the night and be hungry. It should not suffer. We settled back to more tea with the new, live colonel and some sweetmeats.

"How was he killed?" I asked. Then we heard the story of the capture of the Eternal Dragon.

"It was a hot August afternoon," said the officer, our interpreter, "and the general of this division, a very determined man, resolved that the time had come to pierce the Russian centre. So he chose the Seventh Regiment for the honor. It is the regiment to which the young captain—wounded, and rescued by the Russian prisoner, of whom you were talking this morning—belonged. The colonel made his plan of attack to have his command advance in three battalions, one on each flank and one in the front, the flanks to be the real attack, the front to be a feint. He himself commanded the feint, and, as usual, stayed in the rear. He sent his pioneer corps ahead to cut the barbed-wire entanglements. They came back with the report of electric charge. They went forward again with insulated pincers, and the regiment followed. All the way to the base of the hill, where we now are, they were almost unmolested, when they had expected to meet a fierce shell fire. This made them confident. But the Russian general, as we afterward learned, had ordered his men to reserve their fire till we got within close range, and then to give it to us with machine-guns. So the two side battalions got safely well up to the slope, only to meet a terrible rain of steel at the top. The aim was so sure and the firing so heavy that nearly two-thirds of the command were mowed down at once. And the surprise we found was in their construction of the fort. Where we supposed our shells had opened gaps in it we found it intact and our assaulting party unable to gain foothold, for the Russians had placed boiler-plates under two feet of earth, and the shells had little or no effect on it.

"When the colonel learned all this he got mad, and instantly ordered the third battalion to assault the front in force. He led the charge. A few of the men got in and fought hand-to-hand with the Russians. By that time another regiment had arrived with reenforcements, charged through the breach and overwhelmed the Russians, driving them out of the place. Though we are dominated by six of their batteries, and have been assaulted by them eighteen times in attempts to recapture, we have ever since held it. The colonel's body was found under a heap of slain. In it were twenty-four bullet holes. His sword was broken at the hilt. His cap was missing, and we searched for it a long time without success, until, one day, our lookout spied it between the lines. It seemed certain death for a man to try to get it, but as soon as the colonel's servant, a soldier, learned where it was, he volunteered, and succeeded one dark night in regaining it, so the cremation could take place properly. If you wish now, follow the captain into the fort and you will see the foremost trenches. Keep your heads low."

Then we saw the kitten become a tiger. We passed from the hospital soldier, with his sweetheart's letters, his welcoming smile, his innocent and friendly telephone, his harmless tea and cakes, to the firing line: to death, and to worse than death.

It was hands and knees into the fort and the front trenches. This is the tip of the bloody angle, with the enemy on three sides. Bullets passed over us continually. Shells were bursting far away. Twice we passed half-ruined chambers built of timber below ground—Russian food and ammunition shelter. It was high noon. At length we lay, panting, under a pile of sapling poplars; above us were sandbags six deep.

"We are perfectly safe here," said the officer, and we looked out.

"Except from ricochet bullets," added Villiers. "The zone of fire of those chaps yonder is away from us, and as long as they exchange we're all right. Shells can't reach us, even shrapnel would be nullified by this covering, but when those bullets strike a stone no one can tell how they will come. They can shoot around a corner from a flat stone as easily as in the open through a loophole."

For the Ashes of Their Fathers

I HEARD nothing. Standing up, secure, my eyes came upon him suddenly—the soldier of the Emperor, the boy who does the trick—at work. He was crouched under the parapet in front, rifle to cheek, its steel nose through a loophole, his finger on the trigger. The tensity of his muscles and his eyes glancing down that barrel in deadly aim made me think of nothing but a great cat pausing for a spring. One leg was drawn up, his cap was pulled down viciously over his eyes, the sun beat upon him, and he lay, venomous with pent-up passion, cut in silhouette against the trench, a shade darker than the shale. A minute before he had offered me tea and a cigarette; now he was dealing out hot lead. Yet, who could suspect danger, with all so still? But life most intense and death the most terrible and swift dwelt all about us.

Through chinks in the wall a row of sandbags on a mound of earth could be seen. They marked the Russian trenches behind which the enemy lay as silent and deadly as the boys on our side. Not a minute passed without its bullet. Forty metres was the distance, the officer said: the closest place in the whole ten-mile front of the two armies. By day, when the Russians stay quiet, sentries stand three yards apart, by night shoulder to shoulder. They are changed every thirty minutes, so intense is the strain. A regiment can stay in the fort only seven days because the Russians are above and on three sides, and they must keep them out, while they stew in their own juice, and their comrades rot beyond the wall. When a sortie is made neither side asks for quarter nor expects it. The Russians know that unless they regain their trenches they will not live, for to be wounded and fall in the bloody angle means slow death where no aid can come; to meet the Japanese line means instant death. The Japanese know that their chances, if wounded, are the same, and if they reach the Russian lines they accept only one of two things—victory or death. So it is that here through long weeks the siege has concentrated its bitterest essence; living has come to be a burden and death a joy. Then came the thud of a bullet. It was a different thud from any we had had up to that time, and though I had never before heard a bullet strike flesh, I could not mistake the sound. It goes into the earth wholesome and angry, but into flesh ripping and sick with a splash like a hoof-beat of mud in the face.

I turned to look. I saw the nearest sentry sinking to his knees. His rifle had dropped and was leaning against the wall, butt down. He sank together all in a heap, and his head hung limp, his chin against his breast.

"Poor chap!" said Villiers. "He was looking at us and got in front of the loophole. I suppose we are so great a novelty in his strained existence that he could not resist the temptation to neglect his duty for a minute."

We crawled back and out silently and quickly, bade a hurried good-by to the colonel, hastened past the smiling, oblivious men—they are used to it—and over a mile and a half of chipmunk burrow. The general was waiting tiffin for us in his tent. There was a jar containing strawberry-jam such as grandmother used to make. With a flash it brought back all the comforts of home. An empty shell in the centre of the table held some field daisies and wild chrysanthemums. All the fragrance of the fields and the beauties of Nature came with them. At my mess-plate lay an American newspaper, just delivered by this incomprehensible field post. With it civilization, its myriad passions and joys, floated in. As the cigars were passed I opened the paper. I found an interview with Dr. Nicholas Senn, of Chicago, in which he said:

The Men Who Know and Those Who Don't

"ALL the talk of inhumanity which some correspondents are sending out from the Orient is foolish. Statements of wounded soldiers being wounded in the mouth and reports of all similar acts of atrocity can be set down as being without foundation. Russia has the best Red Cross Society in the world, and the Russians are an extremely humane people. Likewise, this war is going to be a humane war. As for the Japanese, the worst that can be said of them is that they are a proud people." I read this aloud. It was translated, and the officers, Lieutenant-General Oshima and his staff, listened. None of them replied. Finally Villiers said:

"The question is not: Are the Japanese or the Russians a humane people, or not a humane people? It is: Are individual men, under conditions the most terrible the imagination can devise, Christians or savages? Both Japanese and Russians are socially delightful people. I've lived with the armies of both nations, and their soldiers are delightful and humane. But that is not the question.

"Now, is it possible for soldiers living as we saw them to-day—in their own filth, unable to succor the wounded, preyed on by stenches from the dead, until battle in which they neither ask nor give quarter is a welcome relief—can the word 'humane' be uttered in speaking of lives such as theirs? Or can it be uttered of the Russians—driven into a trap, half-starved, night and day in the trenches, confronted by overwhelming numbers, with certainty of no relief, yet defending a lost hope with lives easier lost than lived? Would you be 'humane' under such conditions? I am sure I would not.

"No. The truth about war cannot be told. It is too horrible. The public will not listen. A white bandage about the forehead with a strawberry mark on the centre is the picture they want of the wounded. They won't let you tell the truth and show bowels ripped out, brains spilled—eyes gouged away!—faces blanched with horror. The only fellow who ever told the truth about war was Vereschagin, poor chap, drowned over there in the harbor. He in paint and Zola in words told the truth, and they were howled down all their lives, simply because the theorists, like this surgeon, fed up, nursed in the belief that science is all powerful, will always assure the public that modern war is humane.

"Scientific warfare! Let me tell you the facts about science. Archibald Forbes predicted years ago that the time would come when armies would no longer be able to take their wounded from the field of battle. That day has come. We are living in it. Wounded have existed—how, God alone knows—on that field out there, without help, for twelve days, while shells and bullets rained above them, and if a comrade had dared to come to their assistance he would have been a useless suicide. The searchlight, the engineering of scientific trenches, machine-guns, rifles pointblank at 200 yards with a range of 2000—these things have helped to make warfare more terrible now than ever before in history.

"Red Cross societies and scientific textbooks—they sound well and look pretty, but as for 'humane warfare,' was there ever put into words a mightier sarcasm?"

This was translated. The officers—Lieutenant-General Oshima and three of his staff—listened gravely. No one said anything. Finally we walked home, silently, as the sun went down.

Progress and the Performing Bear

The Parable of Lazenby, Who Could Whip Any Man Except His Wife

By Joel Chandler Harris

STRICTLY speaking, Mr. Billy Sanders, of Shady Dale, belongs to the old order of things; but, as he quaintly puts it, he has allowed the new conditions to lap over the old in his mind until now it would be difficult to find the seam that joins them together—difficult to tell t'other from which. So far from being surprised by the great changes that have taken place in the South during the past twenty years, he has done his best, so far as his own town and county are concerned, to hasten their advent. The industrial improvement, and the material progress in which the South has shared, in common with the rest of the country—the spread of the spirit of commercialism, which has met with some criticism from the more conservative—these things, and others that might be mentioned, have found Mr. Sanders not only blandly tolerant but actively sympathetic. He is old enough to be venerable, but he seems to be as far from this, the last stage of longevity, as a man in the prime of life.

With respect to the great industrial movement that has been going on, Mr. Sanders declares that he had been expecting something of the kind long before it came. Nevertheless, as he says, his attitude is similar to that of the young fellow who was looking forward with some pride to the advent of a girl baby with curly black hair and big bright eyes, and who was suddenly informed that he was the parent of twin boys, with red hair and blue eyes, and a complexion in which the freckles could be counted by anticipation. All that Mr. Sanders regrets is that some of the more impatient young fellows of his acquaintance are inclined to bite off more than they can chew when the price of cotton begins to soar.

"There ain't a man in the world," says Mr. Sanders, with one of his Middle Georgia smiles, "but what can put more on a wagon than he can pull, and there's mighty few that won't try it ef you give 'em half a chance. Accordin' to my notion, there ain't a sadder sight outside of a graveyard, where there's weepin' willers on the tombstones, than that of a young feller that's gone and sprained his abilities.

"It ain't been so mighty long ago that a young friend of mine named Henry Lawson—you-all know him e'en about as well as I do—took a notion that he wanted to start a bank; not one of these here cosmowollopin' banks, but jest a modest country bank, warranted to open up for business every mornin' as soon as the sun has dried the dew on the grass. Well, Henry started the bank, an' it run jest like it was greased. It was'sech a easy job that Henry had plenty of time to spar', an' in no long time he tacked on a cotton fact'ry to the bank. The fact'ry begun to pay as soon as he could git the machinery started. Then he started a tannery, an' that paid from the jump; as the neighbors said, it was lots more profitable than it smelt. An' then nothing would do but Henry must have a knittin' mill.

"You'd 'a' thought from the way he talked that it was the biggest thing on the face of the yeth, but when it was up an' in runnin' order it looked to me as ef you could put the whole concern in a two-bushel basket, an' have some room to spar'. But when the little concern got down to business there wasn't nothin' in seven counties that could hold a candle to it; nothin' like it was ever seed in this part of the country. Lively! Why, it walloped up the tannery in little or no time: forty vats of green hides and a stack of dry ones as big as the tavern wa'n't skeersly a mouthful for it. An' the fust thing anybody know'd it had swaller'd the cotton fact'ry an' was a-chawin' on the bank.

"Well, it got so that a receiver had to set down on it for to keep it from eatin' up the town an' all the innocent wimmen an' children. There was a little piece of the bank left when the receiver got the knittin' mill choked off, an' Henry's down there now, countin' other people's money, an' pertendin' to be the biggest financer this side of Philadelphy. I never think of that knittin' mill that it don't put me in mind of Jim Lazenby.

"Jim was a mighty man in a scrimmage, an' them that was afeard of him claimed that he could whip any man in seven counties except his wife. Natchally, this kind of left-handed braggin' gits tiresome ef a man has to live up to it, an' Jim was constantly a-doin' fool things that he never would 'a' thought of ef there had been nobody for to agg him on. Business kinder got slack in the fightin' line after so long a time, an' Jim hardly know'd what to do to make the boys talk.

"One day our thrifty little community happened to be favored wi' a visit from a gentleman Dago, from somewheres or 'nother, who was walkin' through the country for his health, an' for sech dimes as he could pick up. His only reckermendation, as fur as I could see, was that he had in tow one of them performin' bears that you've heer'd tell on before now. I reckon maybe you've seed bears in your day an' time, but ef you ain't seed this one you may as well say you ain't seed nothin' but runts, bekaze he was as big as a Jersey bull, an' mighty nigh as playful. Brit Wiggins, who had been out to Californy for his health an' to save court expenses, said this bear was away yonder bigger than a grizzly—an' ef I ain't mistaken he said it was a Persinnamon bear.

"GIVE JIM A FRAILIN' THAT LAID HIM UP FOR MIGHTY NIGH A MONTH"

"Well, Jim Lazenby happened to be in town when Mr. Dago an' Mr. Persinnamon come marchin' in, arm-in-arm, as you may say. Mr. Dago stopped in the road for to wipe the dust out'n his face an' eyes, an' before he could put on his hat ag'in he had a crowd aroun' him that would 'a' made a circus agent swell wi' pride. Then and there the performance took place. Mr. Persinnamon stood up on his hindlegs like a man, with a pole in his arms, an' marched like a soldier, an' waltzed an' sasshayed aroun'. Then Mr. Dago tied padded gloves on the creetur's paws, an' they had a boxin'-match. Then they rastled, an' when Mr. Persinnamon had gone through purty nigh all his tricks, an' Mr. Dago was passin' the hat aroun', some fool fellow had to up an' remark to Jim Lazenby that his match had come to town at last.

"It would 'a' been all right ef Jim had 'a' been cool an' sober, but he'd had a drop too much. The flowin' bowl tipped the beam, an' Jim Lazenby shucked his coat red-ripe for trouble. Satan couldn't 'a' been one bit politer than Mr. Dago was when he seed what the game was. Jim tiptoed to'rds Mr. Persinnamon, an' says, 'Will your Whathis-name fight?' Mr. Dago flung up his hands like a Dutchman in a dry-goods store. 'Fide?' he says; 'oh, no! heem no fide; heem play wiz you. Oh, yes, heem play!'—Mr. Persinnamon had on a muzzle, an' his claws was covered wi' padded gloves.

"Jim Lazenby got purty close to Mr. Persinnamon, an' made a pass at 'im, but he sidled out of the way lots quicker than a man could 'a' done it. He swung aroun' a-pantin' an' a-bowin', an' Mr. Dago grinned like a little gal wi' a thrip's worth of candy. This an' the boys a-laughin' kinder errytated Jim, an' he went in a leetle closer an' made another pass. This time Mr. Persinnamon didn't dodge; he ketched the lick on one of his pads, an' then he fetched Jim a biff that would 'a' knocked him into the next county ef there hadn't 'a' been a wall handy for to stop him. Mr. Persinnamon kinder sasshayed aroun' an' looked like he was feelin' good, but when Jim made at him ag'in he jest opened his arms an' took the young man to his bosom an' helt him there while he waltzed aroun'.

"Some of the boys wuz afeard that Jim would be squoze to death, an' they up'd an' said so, but Mr. Dago flung up both hands an' shook his head. 'Heem makin' dat love,' he says; an' I believe in my soul his smile was as long and as sweet as a stalk of Lowndes County sugarcane. There they had it, Jim Lazenby and Mr. Persinnamon, up an' down, aroun' an' aroun'. Once Jim tried to bite, an' got his mouth full of hair; then Mr. Persinnamon tried to bite, but the muzzle was in the way. Mr. Persinnamon could pant louder an' snort more than Jim could; the way he went on you'd 'a' thought there was a donkey-engin' in the neighborhood.

"It was play for Mr. Persinnamon, an' a sight of fun for the boys, but Jim was in dead earnest from the word go. Mr. Persinnamon had the advantage when it come to right-down hard huggin', but Jim was some pearter on his feet, bekaze he was a born rastler ef there ever was one in the world. They had one or two dog-falls, as the sayin' is, an' Jim thought he was gittin' some the best of it ontel he foun' that Mr. Persinnamon would jest as soon be on the bottom as on top, an' maybe a little ruther.

"There ain't no doubt that Mr. Dago done his duty when he was educatin' Mr. Persinnamon, for the show that him an' Jim put up was every bit as good as a circus, an' didn't cost a cent except what the boys wanted to put in Mr. Dago's hat. Jim Lazenby couldn't make a riffle but what Mr. Persinnamon would meet him more'n half-way, an' the more Jim cuffed an' scuffled an' rastled, the closer Mr. Persinnamon helt him to his palpitator, ef you'll excuse the ready reference. An' all the time the bear was holdin' Jim he was nosin' an' nozzlin' him, an' sneezin' an' snortin' an' snufflin' in his face an' eyes, an' wheezin' in his y'ears, ontell it got so that Jim couldn't take a breath he could call his own. He done his best for to git away to keep from bein' smothered to death, but the affection of Mr. Persinnamon appeared to be the gennywine thing, an' show'd no sign of coolin' off, an' nuther did his breath, which was every bit an' grain as hot as ef it was comin' from a busy smokestack.

"HEEM MAKIN' DAT LOVE"

"Mr. Dago seed mighty well that the boys was takin' the thing serious, an' jest at the nippin' minnit he give a little yank to the rope, an' the show was over, wi' Mr. Persinnamon a-bowin' an' a-pantin' jest as natchel as life. Jim Lazenby stood there like he was dazzled. He was as white as a sheet, an' as wet about the head an' neck as ef he'd been soured in the mill-pon'. Mr. Persinnamon was in for havin' another whirl, but Jim made a break for the hoss-rack whar his hoss was tied, wipin' his han's an' his hair as he went.

"But the worst was still to come for Jim. When he got home his wife seed that some un had give him a whippin'. She tried to make him tell her who it was, but all the answer she got was that no man had done it. 'Oman-like, she took a notion that ef it wa'n't no man it must 'a' been a 'oman. This made her mad, an' she got the battlin'-stick an' give Jim a frailin' that laid him up for mighty nigh a month."

One among those who had listened to the story declared that it was the first time he had ever heard a knitting mill compared to a bear. Mr. Sanders beamed upon him with a smile that was worth seeing. "Maybe you didn't hear me mention Jim Lazenby's wife," he said.

The Law or the Sandbag?

Some of the Things that Happen When Justice Looks the Other Way

By ATHERTON BROWNELL

A FEW years ago a merchant who had amassed a large fortune passed into the great hereafter, leaving no one to mourn sincerely his demise. On earth he had been noted for practices so sharp that the proverbial razor was no comparison. Always in court, for one reason or another, it was seldom that his cause was the just one, but the law invariably stood behind him, even as a certain lawyer, equally famed for his acuteness, stood by his side. In combination, they were enabled to put their hands in the pockets of their fellows and abstract therefrom whatever they chose as surely as the Artful Dodger secured "the wipes"—and with far greater immunity from the proper consequences. A month or two after the death of the merchant the lawyer suddenly passed away, and the standing of the precious pair in the community made possible the somewhat grim witticism in comment that "So-and-so has got into trouble in Hades, and sent for his lawyer to help him out."

It was this lawyer who made his reputation for "cuteness" at his first appearance in court. The eye of the judge fell upon him one day when about to assign counsel for a poor devil who was in some serious scrape, and was so low in the social scale that he could not employ a lawyer for himself.

"Mr. ——," said the judge ponderously to the supposedly trembling young attorney now about to receive his first case, "it will be your duty to give this man the best advice in your power, just as if he had himself paid you a retainer. That you may have an opportunity of consulting with your client, I will adjourn this case until the afternoon session."

When the afternoon session opened the attorney was present, but the client failed to put in appearance. The case was called. Without any visible embarrassment the young lawyer stepped forward and addressed the court:

"Your Honor," said he, "this morning you assigned a case to me, told me to confer with my client and to give him the best advice in my power. I conferred with him, and found that he had not the slightest shadow of a defense. I could not even prove an alibi. Under these circumstances there was nothing for me to do but to follow your Honor's instructions and give him the best advice that I could, which was to skip the State, and by this time I think he has done it."

A parallel to this on a larger scale occurred in New York within a few years, and is an open secret among lawyers, though for manifest reasons it has not gone far beyond the elect. The cashier of a large bank found himself involved to a considerable extent, and, in his difficulty, firmly resolved not to use the bank funds for speculation in the hope of retrieving his loss. He had seen too many instances of the failure of this method of extrication, leading to final exposure when the funds were gone, and there was nothing left but jail, or beggardom in an alien country. He preferred the alien country and something approaching luxury, and therefore resolved upon a bold stroke. The sum of $100,000, he thought, would be about what he would require if he could get off scot-free with it, but he realized that something would be necessary for "operating expenses." Accordingly, he awaited his opportunity and helped himself to $300,000 of the bank funds one afternoon immediately after the closing hour. With this cash in his pocket he strolled casually over to his attorney's office and told him of what he had done, as well as his desire to get away with as much money and with as little trouble as possible.

"Hm!" said the lawyer. "How much do you say you've got?"

"Three hundred thousand dollars."

"And how much do you want for yourself?"

"One hundred thousand dollars."

"Well, you leave two hundred thousand with me and take the next train for Montreal. There's a steamer sailing from there to-morrow. If you don't hear from me by morning take it, and cable me an address from the farthest point you can reach."

About nine o'clock that night—when the Montreal train was well on its way—there was a lively ringing of the telephone bell in the house of the president of the bank, arousing that gentleman from such reveries as bank presidents have. On the other end of the wire was the lawyer, who calmly told him that his bank had been robbed of $300,000 and that the information had just come to him. He could not say, of course, that what he had overheard was true, but it was worth investigating, at least.

The Lawyer Shares the Loot

THERE were no more reveries that evening, but at the midnight hour there was a solemn meeting of the directors to discuss the situation, to take steps to apprehend the culprit and recover the money. It occurred to some one to call up the attorney who had lodged the information, and, nothing loth, he joined the council. Yes, he knew something of the absconder. He even had an idea that, through personal influences, he might be able to recover the money, or, at least, a part of it. Would the directors be willing to intrust the matter to him and authorize him to get back as much as he could if he was unable to get it all?

Some were for vengeance. Some talked of their duty to the public, but others felt that their first duty was to the depositors. To trace the fugitive might take years of time, at the end of which the money would not be recovered, and the landing of the embezzler in jail would not help pay dividends. Besides, there was the matter of publicity to be thought of, and that should be avoided, if possible, in the interest of the bank. Thus the reasoning went, skillfully directed by the attorney in the case, until the morning was about to dawn. Then a sleepy lot of directors decided to leave the matter in the attorney's hands for twenty-four hours, authorizing him to grant immunity from prosecution if a considerable part of the missing funds could be restored. It is credibly reported that the lawyer fished $150,000 out of his safe the next day and turned it over to the bank, crediting himself with the remaining $50,000 and also with a good deed done in saving the bank one-half its loss.

But neither of these instances fully illustrates the point in mind at the beginning of this article. These things were done by lawyers, but were without the law. What can be done within the law and yet be robbery—how the law can be so twisted as to protect and make possible a direct theft, or what would be a crime if done in another way—is a totally different story. The various circumlocutions, technicalities and quibbles that can be introduced to delay a case until the one appealing for justice is worn out, defeated or dead are too numerous to mention.

In a lawyer's office in Boston hangs a transcript of the stenographer's notes of a few remarks made by the aged clerk of a certain court, which unconsciously and unwittingly suggested this phase of the law. Fumbling for his spectacles, and mixing up his notes, the clerk had replied to the calling of a case:

"Your Honor, the defendant in this case has died, and, the object of the action having been accomplished, it is moved that it be dismissed."

No better example of the raising of a technicality to protect and defend a client from an indictment comes to mind than in a recent case growing out of the General Slocum disaster, by which, through criminal negligence—lack of inspection of life-saving appliances which were of no use because of greed—upward of a thousand lives were lost. It was found that the steamboat company had bought, and that a company manufacturing life-preservers had sold, alleged cork-jackets which would not float because each contained a bar of iron to bring it up to standard weight. An indictment was found, and the case against the manufacturers of the life-preservers was brought in a Federal court on the ground of fraud. A demurrer was filed against the indictment, asking that the case be dismissed on the purely technical ground that the fraud had been committed against a New York corporation, and not against the United States Government, and that, therefore, the State courts alone had jurisdiction. And one can easily fancy the other corporation bringing a suit in a State court!

There is a case that comes to mind in which a certain amount of sympathy can be felt for the man who invoked the aid of his lawyer to avoid the consequences of his proposed breach of the peace, like another very devout gentleman who, fully realizing his own frailties, prayed to be forgiven for the sins he was about to commit. There are probably very few of us who have not at one time or another felt a burning desire to go back to those primitive conditions when we could "take it out" of another fellow's "hide"—cases where an action in court hardly seemed a sufficient satisfaction for outraged feelings, and a doubtful judgment for damages no kind of a panacea for the smart of an offense, even if it fell into the category of those punishable by the law. Most of us have refrained from taking the law into our own hands, sometimes from reasons of prudence, but more often, probably, because of a feeling that it would be rather disagreeable to spend a month or more in seclusion in company that would hardly be congenial. But to all those who would find the way to save the courts unnecessary labor, and gain the satisfaction of personally "taking it out" of another fellow, without suffering any considerable inconvenience afterward, here is the recipe. It has been worked out to one man's satisfaction and the attorney's fee has been joyously paid, but there is a certain caution that should be observed. Just as the proper way to catch a squirrel is to climb a tree and make a noise like a nut, so in this case it is wise to have not only justice on your side, but also an amount of avoirdupois sufficient to back up your contention in the most practical manner.

"No, I don't want to bring a lawsuit," the man in this case was saying to his attorney. "I want that man's hide. I want to administer to him a personal chastisement—yes, sir, with my own right arm." And blazing with righteous indignation he strode about the little office like the royal Bengal tiger that we used to see in the circus menagerie. "But I don't want to spend thirty days on the island, or any such rot as that. I'll pay a fine and I'll pay you a fee, so it's up to you to put me safe in the law. No big trial, you understand, or anything like that."

The next day this client received certain very definite instructions. He was to lie in wait for his man in broad

daylight, and when he met him he was to cast all thought of the consequences to the winds. The lawyer would undertake to succeed only in case his client did his part of the work, and his part was to "do" the other man so completely that an ambulance would be desirable, and so thoroughly that the victim would be physically incapable of appearing in court to make a complaint for some days to come.

This was a part of the contract that distinctly appealed to the man thirsting for vengeance, and, without dwelling unduly upon the details, he failed not in his task. At the psychological moment there appeared upon the scene a policeman, who promptly summoned a carriage and then placed the disturber of the peace under arrest. He had not actually seen the assault, and appealed to those standing by for a witness. Out of the crowd appeared a man bursting with virtuous indignation that such a ruffianly assault could take place on a public thoroughfare. Go to court as a witness? Of course he would! He was a public-spirited citizen, and it was the duty of all such to uphold the majesty of law and order.

Haled before the magistrate on a charge of assault, the fighter found that, by a curious coincidence, his lawyer happened to be in court. After a few searching inquiries, the policeman's story proved to be a simple one, and the public-spirited citizen's ardor had cooled to such a point that a fine of ten dollars and a reprimand, for a simple assault, seemed to satisfy the demands of justice. Three days later, when the victim emerged from his seclusion, with the marks of the conflict still speaking eloquently as to the thoroughness with which the job had been done, he was breathing threats of vengeance. Nothing would satisfy him short of preferring a charge of assault with intent to kill, and an indictment was sought to that end. But it was easy to show that the culprit had already been punished for his act through the charge of the public-spirited citizen, and it needed no argument to reëstablish the principle in law that a man cannot be punished twice for the same offense.

Recently there has been told in THE SATURDAY EVENING POST something of the "graft" that exists in real estate, but the writer did not tell of the pitfalls in the laws governing such transactions that await the feet of the unwary. By them the ease with which one may be mulcted causes the sandbag to become archaic and far removed from the fine art of legalized robbery. An instance in point occurred in Boston. A merchant had retired from business because of ill health, and, wishing to have as few cares as possible, had taken an apartment on a year's lease at an annual rental of $900. Still wishing to be relieved from as many cares as possible, he proposed to the owner of the property that he pay his rent for the year in advance, not even asking for a discount, and thereby he let himself in for an amount of trouble hardly to be suspected.

Paying Two Rents

A MONTH later he received a call from a stranger who demanded the month's rent on the ground that he had just bought the property and was therefore the new owner. An explanation of the situation was made, the receipt of the old owner for the year's rent in advance was shown, and apologies were given and accepted. At the same time, the new owner would esteem it a favor if the tenant would call with him upon the old owner in order that an adjustment might be made. Nothing more pleasant than that interview could be imagined. The new owner apologized to the tenant again for the trouble he was causing him. The old owner apologized to the new owner for having overlooked the fact that he had collected the rent for that year on that apartment, and proposed that he give him credit for the amount on his mortgage note. Therefore, the money remained in the hands of the old owner. In order that there should be no further cause for misunderstanding, it was suggested that the new owner now give the tenant a lease in his own name and also a receipt for the balance of the year's rent, he having received it by having that amount credited to him on his mortgage note. These things all being done, it was suggested that it was now proper for the tenant to return to the old owner the lease he had received from him, as well as the receipt for the rent in advance, as he now held both from the new owner. All of these things were done, and the incident was considered closed, as they say in diplomatic parlance, all parting with expressions of mutual esteem and good will.

Thereafter the tenant was absent from his home for many months in search of health, returning only at about the time of the expiration of his lease. He was gratified and charmed at receiving a call from the original owner—until a demand was made upon him for the sum of $600 rent for the last eight months of his occupancy.

"But how is this? I paid my rent in advance. I paid it to you, and you sold. We adjusted it with the new owner, and you credited him with the amount. How do you now come to me for money?"

"Well, you see, it is like this," was the suave reply. "I was unfortunately obliged to foreclose upon him and take the property back. That wipes out all incumbrances, you know, and a lease is an incumbrance. Your lease has not been valid since that time, and you have been a tenant-at-will."

"But I have paid my rent. I have paid it to you."

"Ah, yes, that is very unfortunate, but you see I credited him with the amount on his note and you took your new lease from him, so that he owes you $600 and you owe me $600, and I want my money now. He has gone away."

A suit was the result, and the contention was sustained on technical grounds. Judgment was obtained, so that in effect the tenant was called upon to pay $1500 for an apartment for which the agreed price was $900.

There was a curious afterclap to this case which is not really a part of this story, but which should be told as a part of this diamond-cut-diamond game. The tenant who had been mulcted, and against whom the law had allied itself as an accessory after the fact, was saved from suffering an actual injustice by an illegal act that could have been punished severely. The innocent victim had a nephew who was a newspaper man, and who, in the course of his work, had occasion to examine the construction of some buildings that were being erected without proper attention having been paid to the building laws. As it happened, they were being built by the plaintiff in this action. For reasons of policy the story had not been published at the time, and the data, with photographs and drawings all showing the evasion of the building laws, lay then in the newspaper man's desk.

"Suppose you let me pay this judgment for you," was his suggestion when his uncle spoke to him, and permission was granted. He brought back the money and made no explanations beyond presenting a receipt for the amount of the judgment in full. "That's the nearest I ever came to being a blackmailer, and I don't want to come any nearer," was his only comment, and it has always been a matter of the deepest interest to learn what went on that day in that real-estate office.

CUPIDON AND A CROWN

A Story of Des Amis

By M. E. M. DAVIS

BUT, 'Toinette, my little angel, my treasure, weep not, I implore thee!" cried 'Polyte for the twentieth time, his voice vibrating between entreaty and despair.

'Toinette's soft wail rose suddenly to a savage shriek. 'Polyte attempted to lift her from Cupidon's back, where she sat astride, her bare heels beating the pony's flanks in a frenzy of anger. "*Non! non!*" she struggled, clinging with all the might of her baby hands to Cupidon's shaggy mane.

A sob, accompanied by sundry muffled protests, fell into the clamor. 'Polyte loosed the four-year-old 'Toinette, dropped his lean arms to his side, and faced his wife, who sat, a forlorn though a plump and comely heap, on the gallery-step with the three boys huddled at her knee. The sob had come from Gabrielle herself; the protests from Jules, Pierre and Rosé.

"It is that you cannot see the nose on the face, you others," said 'Polyte, speaking always, be it understood, in the velvety 'Cajan patois. He threw out his hands and embraced his entire family, the impassive Cupidon included, in an exasperated scowl. "Is not the honey all sold? Is not the cotton yet to grow for the weaving of more cloth to sell? Does a man pick up fifty dollars in the Des Amis road? Therefore, is it I, Hypolyte Garsin, who will keep the habitation Garsin, or shall Dominique Bechet dwell in the *cabane* of my fathers? *Hein?*"

The habitation of 'Polyte Garsin, held snugly in an arm of the Bayou des Amis, consisted of a small canefield with outlying corn and cotton patches, an orchard of fig and orange trees, scraggy with age, and a garden in the midst of which was set the steep-roofed *cabane*, built by 'Polyte's forebears *dans le temps*—which is to say, beyond the memory of man. A dozen or more wooden beehives dotted the dooryard shaded by pecan and crêpe-myrtle trees, and on the cabin porch stood the clumsy wooden loom, with polished beams and worn treadles, upon which successive Garsin wives and mothers had, time out of mind, woven the wiry blue jeans and the pliant brown-and-white Acadian cloth of the parish. The tough, hairy, dapple-gray 'Cajan pony stood knee-deep in a tangle of honeysuckle runners escaped from a sagging trellis hard by. The blossoms under his hoofs gave out a dewy perfume to the morning air.

"I do not wish to sell Cupidon, me," continued 'Polyte. "Am I a pig? Do I forget that Cupidon was born, as it were, at my own knee? Was it Cupidon, or another, Gabrielle, *ma mie*, who bore thee on his back, a bride, from thy father's habitation to mine? Was it Cupidon, or another, who carried the coffin of our little Madeleine to the churchyard of St. Thérèse? Am I a heart of stone? Was it Cupidon, or another, who fetched the doctor from Des Amis when 'Toinette lay in her cradle scorched with that devil of a fever——"

At the mention of her own name, 'Toinette, who had lapsed into snuffling silence, began to howl afresh. Gabrielle wept silently. Jules, Pierre and Rosé blubbered with their heads in her lap.

"Am I a pig?" demanded 'Polyte, more in sorrow than in wrath. "Since nineteen years Cupidon has been of my house." He laid a caressing hand on Cupidon's upthrown nose. "But I tell thee again, Gabrielle, my cherished, that if I pay not that fifty dollars to Dominique Bechet before the day after to-morrow the mortgages will be shut up and the habitation Garsin will pass to Dominique Bechet and to Jeanne Bechet his wife. That sees itself. Therefore I go to Des Amis, where the Tournament is. Therefore I sell Cupidon. It is enough."

Gabrielle waved a limp hand in token of submission and wrapped her head in her apron; the boys abandoned themselves to noisy despair; 'Toinette, torn at length from her perch, clawed like a young wildcat in her father's arms; 'Polyte appealed angrily to the saints. Cupidon alone remained unmoved, champing between bridle-bit and teeth a blade of June grass, his hoofs ringed about with honeysuckle flowers.

But when 'Polyte swung his long jeans-clad legs over the pony's bare back ("Am I a donkey," said 'Polyte, "that I should return from Des Amis with a saddle on my shoulder?"), when pony and master passed out of the gate into the road, then indeed Cupidon understood that the end of the world was come! What! neither Jules nor Pierre aswing from his tail? Neither Rosé running at his mane, nor 'Toinette screeching triumphant from his neck? Holy Virgin! what had arrived? He turned his head toward his master, his large eyes filled with questioning, and uttered a whinny which had in it a note of mortal pain. But 'Polyte jerked his head about with a rough hand and set him at a steady gallop down the rough road which led to the village of Des Amis.

At precisely the same moment the wide gates of the St. Martin plantation, many miles distant from the habitation

Garsin, swung apart, and the St. Martin family carriage, drawn by a pair of handsome bays, rolled majestically forth and turned likewise into the Des Amis road. Mademoiselle Nysidà St. Martin, slim, red-lipped, graceful, sat on the front seat opposite her parents—the shriveled but erect and elegant Monsieur St. Martin, and Madame his wife, portly and placid. The girl's pretty head, crowned with a splendor of dark hair, rising like a flower above the fluffy whiteness of her gown, turned with impartial favor from one to the other of the two horsemen who rode on either side the carriage. Her starry eyes beamed, now upon André d'Hymel, whose dark, expressive face was not unlike her own—the master of the Plantation Sans Nom being, indeed, her cousin several times removed—and now upon Lucas Ellwood, newly arrived in the parish to try his hand at managing the St. Martin refinery. D'Hymel's mount, a frisky chestnut filly, grazed the right wheel of the carriage with her glossy shoulder; Ellwood's blooded gray on the left curveted under his rider's nervous hand; and in the blue eyes of the American and the brown ones of the Creole the same thought swam, patent to the most careless observer: "I win—or lose—the Queen's crown—and Nysidà—this day." But if Mademoiselle St. Martin was aware that her own fate hung thus upon the annual joust at Des Amis—suspended invisible, between the lances there awaiting her two outriders—not so much as a turn of the extraordinarily long eyelashes which swept her cheeks betrayed that knowledge.

The road passing between vast fields of sugarcane, billowy-green under the June sky, was fringed with sunflowers and daisies standing up tall against the barbed-wire fences, or crouched low at the foot of Cherokee-rose hedges, themselves starred with blossoms. From the stately plantation-houses along the way groups of women and children fluttered out to waiting carriages; sober planters—linen-clad, Panama-hatted—stepped into lighter traps; younger men, booted and spurred, mounted well-groomed saddle-horses. Long before the slim spire of St. Thérèse Church, suddenly visible from a turn in the road, announced the approach to Des Amis, the St. Martin coach was leading a long procession of vehicles and horsemen. For the entire parish goes up yearly, of one accord, to the Tournament of Des Amis, to beam—and to bet—on the riders, and to assist at the coronation of the Queen. It is an old custom, darling, they will tell you all about the parish, from *dans le temps*.

The straggling, picturesque little village, with its aisles of live oaks and magnolias, and its galleried houses, half hidden by those cream-tinted, heaven-smelling roses which grow nowhere else in the world but in Des Amis, swarmed with eager and expectant throngs of people—town and parish folk, gentry, cane-cutters, storekeepers, 'Cajans-Americans, Creoles. All business save that relating to the tourney was suspended; flags were flying, and here and there floral arches adorned the crossways; a sort of rampant hilarity pervaded the air. Men and boys stood about in knots discussing the respective merits of the Knights and their mounts—the points of both as well known in general as the state of the crops. In cool gallery-nooks or shaded rose-arbors women and girls discussed yet more eagerly the possible wearer of the crown. For the sole prize at the Des Amis Tournament is a wreath of Des Amis roses. Much money, it must be confessed, changes hands at this yearly meet; impossible wagers are laid and taken by the spectators; often a bout at fisticuffs enlivens the outfield; duels, even, are not unknown. But for the participants—and these are of varied degrees, for the tilt is open to all respectable contestants—there is the privilege of wearing a knot of ribbon, and the glory, for the winner, of choosing a Queen and himself setting a crown upon her head at the ball which concludes the festival.

At the entrance to the village d'Hymel, with a friendly smile which included his rival, turned aside and cantered off to a blacksmith's shop beyond the green, before which a man was in the act of dismounting from a shaggy dapple-gray pony. The man was none other than 'Polyte Garsin; the pony, needless to add, was Cupidon—Cupidon, who, after a gallop of fifteen miles, stood, unbreathed, on his sturdy legs.

Ellwood escorted the St. Martin carriage to the mansion of one of the numerous branches of the famille St. Martin, quartered his horse in a public stable, and strolled aimlessly about the streets. The panorama under his eyes was new to him, and, under ordinary circumstances, would have aroused lively interest. But in truth he saw nothing with his outward senses; there swam before his inner vision a slender, white-clad figure, shutting out all else; starry eyes looked into his own; a small hand beckoned to him!

Once only did he emerge from the Land of Faery in which he walked. This was when his eye lighted unaware upon a wreath of long, shapely, cream-tinted rosebuds. It reposed upon a bed of green leaves in a crystal bowl filled with water. Above it, in the florist's window, hung a placard bearing the legend, *The Queen's Crown*. As he stared at it, fascinated, there was effected under his gaze one of those transformations familiar to modern magic: below the dewy buds appeared not only the piquant face of Nysidà St. Martin, but the misty outlines of a wedding-veil, which enveloped the face like a cloud!

Meanwhile, Jacques Brou, the blacksmith, had tightened a shoe for the chestnut filly, a number of d'Hymel's admirers looking on; the young sugar-planter was a great favorite in

SLIM AND LOVELY IN HER SHIMMERING BALL DRESS

his parish. He smiled when Jacques Brou wished him good luck—a mere form, of course, for had not the Knight Sans Nom carried off the prize these two years past, and these two years past set the crown on the head of Mademoiselle St. Martin? But this time, indeed, it was in the air that more than the crown would fall to his hand—if he were the victor! He gathered up his bridle-reins.

"Look out!" cried a bystander, for the chestnut filly was treading upon Cupidon's heels. "Oho!" scoffed another, "there is no danger. Old Cupidon? He was born when the devil had no tail."

"Thou art a lying rascal, Blaise Tremoulet!" exploded 'Polyte, wrathful. "The pony has but nineteen and a half years. Ah-ha-a-a-a!" For Cupidon had kicked out vigorously, his hoofs just grazing the filly's slim ankles as she bounded away. The crowd applauded: "Bravo, old Cupidon!"

"He has legs of iron, that pony," remarked 'Polyte subtly; "he has the strength of two mules, he eats nothing, he can pull a plow all day and gallop all night——"

But certainly! was not the parish acquainted with Cupidon?

"Nevertheless," continued 'Polyte, sweeping his hearers with crafty eyes, "he has not a good heart for the family, that beast. He has malice, he meditates evil, the children tremble before him——"

"What devil of a flea has 'Polyte under his blouse?" muttered Tremoulet between his teeth.

"Therefore, I am desired by Gabrielle Garsin, my wife, to sell Cupidon——"

A movement of surprise stirred the group.

"Me, I do not wish to sell, as it were, my right thumb. But——!" 'Polyte shrugged his shoulders and cast a reproachful glance at Cupidon, who made no sign. "Fifty dollars, no more and no less, will I take for that horse. It is of a cheapness, yes. But what will you?"

"Ah," breathed Blaise, enlightened. For every soul present knew about Dominique Bechet and the mortgage. Sympathy for the famille Garsin was not lacking. Notwithstanding, a howl went up. Fifty dollars! For old Cupidon! Ohé!

"Fifty cents is about Cupidon's size," jeered one youthful connoisseur in horseflesh—an American.

"Say, 'Polyte," suggested another with a wink at his fellows, "whyn't you enter Cupidon for the Tournament? Show him off, man. You'd git five dollars for him after—if he didn't fall over his old legs and break his neck!"

"Two dimes to a nickel on Cupidon!" shouted a third.

'Polyte's sallow cheek reddened under these insults to Cupidon; a dogged look came into his small, black eyes. He walked away from the dissolving circle with the pony trailing at his heels, and presently approached the gallery of the Des Amis Hotel, where the Tournament Committee were making their final arrangements.

Perplexity, not to say dismay, sat on the faces of these gentlemen when Garsin had preferred his request. The 'Cajan, it appeared, desired to ride in the Tournament. M. St. Martin, the chairman, looked from the jeans-clad man to the uncombed beast. "It will make the whole affair ridiculous," he sighed, "but——" The lists were undoubtedly open, up to the last moment, to all riders of respectability; and no man in the parish was held in greater respect than Garsin, of Garsin Habitation. 'Polyte's ancestors had come away from Grand Pré with Monsieur St. Martin's own. He conferred with his colleagues, the upshot being that 'Polyte was booked by Secretary Jack Darsam as The Unknown Knight; steed, Cupidon.

The lists at Des Amis are but a stone's throw from the heart of the town. The straight course is faced at its lower end by an open pavilion tiered with benches; just opposite is set the small boxlike judges' stand. At regular distances along the track are planted the four posts with outstretched arms, to which the rings are lightly suspended; wreathed with evergreen on the great day, these posts lose somewhat of their ordinary gallows-like appearance.

At precisely four o'clock in the afternoon, the Knights, who numbered on this occasion a round dozen, drew up according to usage in front of the judges' stand, saluted gravely, wheeled to dip their lances to the group of young women who sat, bowered in roses, in the centre of the pavilion; then rode the length of the course to the starting line. The enormous crowd cheered with boisterous lungs, clapping each Knight by name as he trotted past. The hindmost chevalier—'Polyte Garsin, mounted upon Cupidon, his long legs dangling stirrupless almost to the ground, the wooden lance held awkwardly under his arm—provoked a wild outburst of laughter, intermingled with catcalls, friendly abuse and sarcastic advice. He had stubbornly refused the loan of a saddle from the committee, and the offer of Blaise Tremoulet's Sunday clothes. He wore no colors, and he stared stolidly at the Herald when that official, in the person of Jack Darsam, proclaimed his title. But he listened with keen ears to the reading of the rules governing the tourney.

These were simple enough: Three runs, each to be made within a prescribed time. The rings to be taken on the point of the lance without slackening or changing the horse's gait. To the Knight carrying off the greatest number of rings, the prize. Failure to capture more than two rings in a single run barred the rider from further participation in the contest.

It was observed that the time allowed for each run had been, since the last meet, shortened by one-third. The horses, therefore, as well as their riders, were upon their mettle.

The first run reduced the competitors to five: Tip Vance, Knight of de Soto (wearing the red shoulder-knot of Mademoiselle Héloise Lafleur), and the Forest Knight, Norbert Lanve (with Felicia Barrett's pink rosette in his cap), had each taken three rings. D'Hymel, the Knight Sans Nom, and Ellwood, the Knight of Dreams (both showing on their wrists the pale-blue streamer of Mademoiselle St. Martin), counted the highest score possible—four rings each. So did The Unknown Knight, who, with his lance held at an absurd angle, and his legs knotted under Cupidon's belly, had darted, a blue-and-dapple-gray flash, along the track, lowering the allotted time by ten and a quarter seconds.

"Bravo, Cupidon, *le Vieux!*" The shout rang from several hundred throats.

"Bah!" said Blaise Tremoulet contemptuously. "It was an accident. That sees itself."

"It was the Holy Virgin!" said 'Polyte fervently to himself.

The second run proved disastrous to the Forest Knight, who had but two rings to his credit. D'Hymel, Vance and Ellwood each bore off three. 'Polyte—and now Cupidon wiped another second from the time—'Polyte again dropped the four rings from his lance's head at the feet of the judges. The jeers and laughter of outfield and pavilion were changed to astonished admiration. 'Polyte's stock went up at a bound. Even the judges had out their betting-books. M. St. Martin—the Acadian blood tingling in his veins—offered to back Cupidon—and 'Polyte—against the field.

"Holà, 'Polyte!" yelled the spectators; "the crown is already at your hand!"

"*La couronne!*" echoed 'Polyte vaguely. The crown, indeed! What 'Polyte wanted was to sell Cupidon for fifty dollars. "For the habitation Garsin, my poor Cupidon," he whispered, leaning to the up-pricked ear. "Make thyself worth the mortgage—and the saints will reward thee!"

Cupidon whinnied softly in reply, and, when 'Polyte's turn came, carried his master more like a whirlwind than a 'Cajan pony.

"He will die of it, that ancient Cupidon," declared Blaise Tremoulet. Notwithstanding, he sought 'Polyte, when that gentleman—declared victor of the Des Amis Tournament—had retreated, stolidly uncomfortable, to the blacksmith's shop, and offered fifty dollars for Cupidon, provided he, Blaise, could borrow that sum from his *marraine*.

The score of the final heat stood: Ellwood, 0; Vance, 2; d'Hymel, 3; Garsin, 4.

. . . . . .

The Coronation Dance began early; hardly had a full moon begun to silver the magnolias, when slim girls—dainty as the Des Amis rosebuds that brushed their skirts, white as the magnolia-bells above their heads!—and trim gallants, ample mammas and staid papas, flocked to the town hall, garlanded and beflagged for the occasion. There the fiddlers were already tuning their strings; the judges were seated in grave state before the table which held, fragrant, fresh and dewy, the Queen's crown.

Speculation was rife as to how the victor would comport himself; whom would he choose for his Queen—that lank 'Cajan, that brown *père de famille?* The aristocracy giggled, the bourgeoisie bridled, the committee were openly anxious. But there was no thought of interfering with 'Polyte's prerogatives. The Des Amis Tournament abides honorably by its rules and its traditions.

At a given moment, and with due formality, Monsieur Hypolyte Garsin was called forward. Monsieur Garsin refused pointblank to budge from the corner where he stood looking on with half-shut, inscrutable eyes. It became necessary, therefore, for Mr. Darsam, the secretary, to convey the crown to its winner, and to explain—which he did with the utmost patience and good humor—to Monsieur Garsin that he was expected to choose a Queen from among the ladies present: to place the crown upon her head, and to open the ball with her.

'Polyte had never missed a Tournament since he could remember. This was his first ball.

The secretary presently returned to his colleagues. 'Polyte, it seemed, had no idea of performing the time-honored function: he called it a *bêtise.*

The air around the committee cleared on the instant. D'Hymel, having the second highest score, was declared eligible to all honors; and Mr. Darsam journeyed once more to 'Polyte's corner to fetch away the crown. Once more his mission failed, the 'Cajan opposing to all entreaties and expostulations the simple statement:

"Me, I keep dose flower."

The committee, reduced to helplessness, and pressed for time, were fain to send out and procure from a nearby garden a bunch of Des Amis roses. These, hastily tied together, were handed to d'Hymel, who, putting aside his own chagrin, in turn presented them to Mademoiselle St. Martin; and so it was that the Knight Sans Nom, stepping by accident into another man's shoes, opened the ball with an uncrowned Queen.

'Polyte looked on for a time at the dancing, the Queen's crown hooked over his arm; but he presently slipped out and crossed the strip of green that encircles the hall, to where Cupidon browsed, his halter thrown lightly over the back of a wooden bench. 'Polyte seated himself on the bench in the dazzling moonlight and laid the wreath on his knee. He was very tired, 'Polyte. His head dropped to his breast; he wondered how long it would take Blaise Tremoulet to go to his *marraine's* on Bayou Noir and come back. Blaise would ride Cupidon in the Parish races next week. Why, of course! He trembled as he pictured the pony under Blaise Tremoulet's whip-lash.

"I am a monster without a soul!" he muttered, standing up. "May the saints punish me if I sell thee, my little Cupidon." Cupidon's nose came snuggling against his shoulder. "Never will I commit such a crime—never!"

But he sat down again with a scared face; Dominique Bechet's greedy black eyes danced before him in the moonlight; he smote the bench with a clenched fist. "The habitation, then, will be another's, and thou, Gabrielle, wilt be thrust from thy chimney-corner to make a place for Jeanne Bechet." He groaned aloud. For between the east wind and the west wind, as the 'Cajan saying is, he knew not how to wear his cap.

At that moment Ellwood seated himself on the other end of 'Polyte's bench. He took no note of his chance companion; he did not hear the clear whistle of the mocking-bird in the magnolia above his head, nor the rollicking dance-tunes which floated out from the ball-room. His thoughts were busy with the downfall of his own hopes. He had lost the one woman in all the world. The Tournament? That had not mattered, after all, since d'Hymel was no more the real victor than himself; but—— He ground his teeth at the recollection of that splendid pair leading the march yonder; the two dark heads lifted so proudly; the smiles flashing from one high-bred face to the other! Oh, well, he had lost. Why sit sulking like a child deprived of its toy! He shrugged his shoulders impatiently and turned, frowning, to regard his neighbor. His eyes fell upon the crown lying on 'Polyte's knee.

"Mr. Garsin," he said abruptly, "would you mind giving me that wreath?"

"Wreat'?" echoed 'Polyte, puzzled. "Oh, *la couronne!* Pardon, M'sieu' h'Ellwood, I bring that c-r-rown to Gabrielle. Gabrielle, M'sieu', is my wife."

"I wish you would give it to me," persisted Ellwood. He suddenly felt as if his life depended upon the possession of that wreath of faded rosebuds beneath which, a few hours earlier, he had seen, as in a vision, the face of Nysidà St. Martin, starlike behind a wedding-veil. "Give it to me," he urged recklessly. "It will be withered before you get home. It is withered now."

"*Non,* M'sieu'," 'Polyte said doggedly. "I leave Cupidon. I bring dose flower to Gabrielle. It not that I wish to sell Cupidon, me!" he went on to explain in answer to Ellwood's surprised ejaculation. The story came out—tumbled out!—a queer jumble of French and English . . . the mortgages . . . the last payment . . . Dominique Bechet, and Jeanne Bechet his wife . . . the habitation Garsin . . . the coffin of *la petite* Madeleine . . . 'Toinette . . . dose boy . . . Gabrielle . . . Blaise, who had gone to borrow fifty dollars from his *marraine* . . . "Therefore, M'sieu'," concluded 'Polyte with a click in his throat—"therefore, I sell Cupidon. But I think he onderstan', that little 'orse. *Hein,* M'sieu'?"

"I am sure he understands," returned Ellwood absently. He had stretched out a leg and thrust a hand into his trousers pocket. "Mr. Garsin," he added easily, "I will give you fifty dollars for that crown."

"Fif——!" 'Polyte gasped wildly. "It is that M'sieu' means for Cupidon; is it not so?"

"Fifty dollars for the crown," repeated Ellwood.

"*La couronne!* But, M'sieu', *la couronne,* she is not wort'——"

"It is worth that much to me," interrupted Ellwood, smoothing out on the bench with one hand five ten-dollar bills, while with the other he transferred the Queen's crown from 'Polyte's knee to his own.

'Polyte stared with speechless incredulity at the money; then, still dazed, he grasped the hand extended to his own, and, laying his face against Cupidon's inthrust nose, he blubbered aloud.

Ellwood turned his back squarely upon the scene. When he looked round again both 'Polyte and Cupidon were gone;

THE TWO DARK HEADS LIFTED SO PROUDLY; THE SMILES FLASHING FROM ONE HIGH-BRED FACE TO THE OTHER!

but, miracle of miracles! Nysidà St. Martin sat in 'Polyte's place, slim and lovely in her shimmering ball dress.

"Mr. Ellwood," she said sweetly, "will you conduct me over at my *grande cousine,* where my mamma and my papa attend me?"

"But, d'Hymel . . . where . . . ?" Ellwood stammered involuntarily.

"Mr. d'Hymel is gone—since an hour," returned Nysidà, dropping her eyes demurely. "He has found himself fatigued, my cousin André. Ah!"—she checked herself to cry—"But you have the crown! How is it that you have the crown?"

"I bought it," said Ellwood shortly.

Then, before he knew it, the story came tumbling out, as 'Polyte's had done but now, and in words almost as disjointed: the wreath . . . the vision . . . the wedding-veil . . . his cherished hope . . . his sudden despair . . . "Therefore," he concluded, borrowing a phrase from 'Polyte—"therefore, I have bought the Queen's crown. Therefore——"

But Nysidà had moved swiftly along the bench: she was close beside him.

A little later, when Mr. Ellwood and Mademoiselle St. Martin passed, hand in hand, within the gate of the *grande cousine,* the Queen's crown, faded but giving to the night air a divine perfume, rested on Mademoiselle St. Martin's dark hair.

'Polyte, clattering past on Cupidon's back, noted the pair and grinned understandingly to himself. Cupidon, as fresh in body and as serene in spirit as if he had never quitted the habitation nor assisted at the winning of a crown, was bearing his master homeward.

'Polyte, having appeased—over a bottle of claret—the just wrath of Blaise Tremoulet, had forgotten all his weariness; his heart weighed no more than a feather! He shouted at the top of his lungs as he passed along rose-hedged lanes, by plantation-houses and canefields sleeping in the moonlight, through bits of swamp, across strips of prairie. He stopped now and then to take out his worn pocketbook and assure himself by actual sight and touch that the price of "dose mortgage" was there. At such moments he poked an imaginary fist under Dominique Bechet's very nose, and cried sarcastically in the face of his beady black eyes: "Aha, you will take the habitation Garsin, *hein,* Dominique Bechet? You will not wait one little minute, *hein?* You will shut up dose mortgages on the instant, *hein?* You will plant Jeanne Bechet in the place of Gabrielle Garsin, *hein?* *B-r-r-r!*"

Cupidon's steady gallop drew him nearer and nearer home. An hour after midnight he crossed the Bayou des Amis, and, climbing the opposite bank, came in sight of the habitation. The 'Cajan chanson he was softly humming died on his lips and a lump rose in his throat. The little place lay silent in the heart of the night. Cupidon—as if he knew!—went more and more softly. 'Polyte's blood all at once went cold. What if——

The saints be praised! There she sat, Gabrielle, just where he had left her that morning—waiting for him, 'Polyte!—with the sleeping boys huddled against her knee and 'Toinette in her arms.

"Gabrielle, *ma mie,*" sobbed 'Polyte, jumping down and running to her, "behold, our little Cupidon! And the habitation Garsin is ours and not another's!" And once again the story tumbled out.

Cupidon, with his hoofs ringed about with honeysuckle trumpets, shook his foam-flecked sides and gave a sigh of content; for, wriggling and shouting, "dose boy" were once more swinging to his mane and his tail, and 'Toinette, sleepy-eyed but blissful, sat astride of his neck.

Getting Business

THERE is a good business point in how I once sold a bill of goods to a man who had quit me when I changed firms. We had been good friends in a business way for many years. I thought that he would buy from me regardless of the line I carried. That was where I made a mistake. The other fellow slipped in on me and I was out of it for a couple of seasons. In fact, I had quit making the town. When you see you are out of it with a certain man the best thing for you to do is to quit trying to pick grass out of his pasture, and seek to break into other green fields where the fences are not so strong.

I chanced to meet my friend, Walter, on the train in Indiana one day. To be sure, I was not going to be surly about having been turned down. The best thing to do when you are out of it is to ignore the fact altogether, and if a man has been your friend and quit buying goods from you treat him just the same as if he continued to give you his patronage.

"Well, how goes it, Walter?" said I. "First rate," he answered. I talked with him for an hour—never mentioning business. We smoked a couple of cigars together, and I turned the conversation always to old times. We had known each other for sixteen years. After a while I saw that he had warmed up to me. This was as we drew near the station. "Where are you going here, Walter?" said I.

"Just up to meet my daughter who is coming in on the midnight train."

"If that is the case," said I, "and you are free, you are going to take dinner with me to-night at the hotel."

At dinner not a word did I say about business. I knew that was not a prudent thing to do. I wanted to sell him, of course, more than most any one I knew, because it had hurt me to lose one of my oldest business friends. After dinner we played billiards. When it came time for him to go to the station to meet his daughter he turned to me and said:

"Look here, old man, I'm certainly ashamed of myself for the way I have treated you. Confound it! Send me $100 of such stuff as you think I can use. I will handle it on top of what I have, anyway.

"I can use it all right, as I did not buy very strongly, and next season you just come around to see me or let me know where I can meet you, and in the future you shall have my trade."

—*Charles N. Crandon.*

THE SPECULATIONS OF JOHN STEELE—By Robert Barr

"NOT AT 'OME, SIR," WAS THE CURT ANSWER

Third and Last Time—Gone

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JACK STEELE'S friends were amazed to find him back in Chicago almost within a week after he had left with such lavish preparations for a long stay in the wilderness. It was difficult for him to offer an adequate explanation, and it grew to be most annoying, once he had constructed his excuses, to be compelled to repeat them to every friend he met, and listen to the advice given by people who didn't in the least know what they were talking about.

Nor was that the worst of it. Now that the immediate tension of the crisis had relaxed, John Steele found himself very close to a mental and physical collapse. It was true that the great Peter Berrington was dead, but the elation which that startling piece of news had first caused subsided long before Jack reached the city. Men die, but systems remain. Had the shadow of Peter Berrington been lifted, after all, even though Peter himself was now a shadow? The grotesque uncertainty of the situation was making rags of John Steele's nerves.

It was not that he shrank from ruin, or even from death; he had faced both within the past year. It was the doubt of when and how the blow was to fall. He began to fear that something worse than either ruin or death would overtake him. In the privacy of his own room he would sometimes march up and down with set teeth and clenched fists, saying to himself: "You must quit thinking of this, or you'll go mad——" and yet with all his strength of mind he could not stop his planning to circumvent the unseen danger which threatened him.

It was the more difficult for Jack Steele to cease his thoughts of the Amalgamated Soap combination because the papers continued full of Peter Berrington and the financial upheaval which his sudden death was certain to cause. The imagination of the world was touched by the fact that this tremendous power, which Peter Berrington had wielded in ever-increasing force for nearly half a century, now lapsed into the hands of a girl, Constance Berrington, aged twenty-four, the only child of the billionaire. The newspapers printed column after column about this young lady, who appeared to be even more of a recluse than her father. They published portraits of her, no two alike: pictures ranging from the most beautiful woman in Christendom to a gaunt and ugly hag; which seemed to indicate that photographs of Miss Constance were unobtainable, and that the artists drew on their imagination as much as on their drawing-pads. She avoided society, was never seen at such resorts as Newport or Lenox. She took no part in the festivities of a great city, and never entered a theatre. It was said she was haunted by a fear of being married for her money and had become a man-hater. It was also alleged that she had a conscience, a possession with which her father had never been credited, and intended to devote her life and her billions, as far as possible, to the undoing of the harm which her parent had accomplished.

"She is fanatically religious," said one sheet.

"She is a plain, commonplace girl," said another, "whose father has bequeathed her his cash, but not his brains."

When Jack Steele found he could not cease thinking over his paralyzing situation, and began to fear that insanity awaited him, he resolved to meet this girl, and persuade her, if he could, to stop this huge golden Juggernaut which threatened to crush the life or reason out of him. Yet it seemed cowardly for a grown man to make such an appeal to a young girl who was an entire stranger to him, and who, if he actually succeeded in reaching her presence, would most likely feel indignant and insulted that such crimes as he placed before her without the slightest proof should be attributed to her father. His interview would doubtless end with his being turned out of the house. Again, even if she believed him, had she the actual as well as the nominal power to stop the persecution? Was she like the Czar of Russia, helplessly at the head of an organization over whose movements the supposed chief has no control?

Steele resolved to propose a treaty of peace with Nicholson. Then came the doubt. Should Nicholson agree to such a pact, would he keep it? Would he not rather use it as a sedative to lull his intended victim into false security? Such an outcome was very likely; still, a frank talk with Nicholson could do no harm, and Steele had not the slightest intention of being lulled into security by anything Nicholson could say. Therefore, he did not go impetuously to New York and fling himself at the feet of his Nemesis. Instead, he first set about the preparation of the goods he would trade with this white Indian. It gratified him to think that, after all these months of doubt and uncertainty, he could at last come to a definite decision about anything.

There were no women in Steele's office. His confidential stenographer was a quiet man, a little older than Jack, named Henry Russell. Steele touched an electric button on his desk, and Russell came in, notebook in hand.

"Sit down, Russell. If I remember rightly, you were connected with a newspaper in your early days?"

"I was merely a reporter, sir."

"Oh, don't say merely! A reporter is ever so much more important than an editorial writer. Have you ever attempted a novel?"

"No, sir."

"Still, you know something of literary form?"

"I know nothing about the writing of books, sir. I think I have a fair knowledge of how a sentence should read."

"Well, don't you think you could concoct the plot of a novel? A novel of every-day business life, let us say, like one of those that have been so successful lately. A book pulsating with the greed of gold, and all that sort of thing, you know—unscrupulous men, and perhaps an adventuress here and there, of perfectly stunning beauty. For instance, some one resembling that Miss Fuller who came in to see me a fortnight ago."

Russell shook his head.

"There's nothing much doing just now," continued Steele. "At this present moment I intended to be off on my vacation, but I found the mountains too exciting—er—too dull, I mean, and so you see I am back earlier than I expected to be. Now, Russell, between ourselves, there is nothing more absurd than for a successful business man to attempt the writing of a novel. Yet I'm the sort of person who cannot remain idle, and there is nothing in sight to do for a month or two. I'm going to while away the time by composing a business novel, and I want you to assist me. I'll dictate the thing straight off to you, and you must invent the names and kick the sentences into shape."

"I'll do my best, sir."

"And remember, Russell, of all the confidential transactions you've been called upon to perform, this is the one in which I demand the utmost secrecy. I would be the laughing stock of the town if it once got out."

"I'll never breathe a whisper of it, sir."

"I'm sure you won't, and that is why I trust you. Now, we'll just lock the doors and refuse ourselves to all comers. If a novel is to be a success nowadays, when people have so much to read and so little time for reading, it must be as sensational as possible, and I think I can do the trick. Anyhow, if it fails there's no great harm done, and for a time we two will court that seclusion which I read in the papers all true literary men surround themselves with. You will type it first straight off from your notes; then we'll go over the copy together, and have it done in duplicate."

The two men worked together day after day, until the first draft of the history was completed and typed, then they revised this copy very thoroughly, and Steele directed that duplicates should be made with blanks left for all proper names. He professed himself dissatisfied with the titles they had invented, and said that while the final manuscript was being prepared he would concoct more suitable appellations for his main characters, and insert them with his own hand. This final revision was accomplished by John Steele alone, when he inserted the real names; then he wrote the following letter to Stoliker, of the Chicago Daily Mail:

> *My dear Stoliker:* If the accompanying manuscript ever comes into your possession, I want you first of all to remember that on a certain night I brought to you a most remarkable article regarding the wheat situation in this country, the truth of which you quite legitimately doubted. After events proved the accuracy of my statement, and you were thus enabled to score a great triumph for your paper. Believe me, then, when I tell you that every word here typed is true, for when you read the accompanying pages I shall not be by your side to use arguments in favor of its publication. I shall either have disappeared, or more probably I shall be dead. In either case this manuscript, every name in which is real, will give you a clew to the disaster which has overtaken me.
>
> Your friend,
>
> JOHN STEELE.

This letter and the manuscript he wrapped up into a parcel, which he securely sealed. On the outside he wrote instructions that in the case of his death or disappearance the package was to be handed intact to Stoliker, of the Daily Mail. The other package, with a duplicate of the letter to Stoliker, was placed in the vault of a depository, supposed to be the greatest strong-room in the city, which he afterward learned, with some amusement, belonged to Amalgamated Soap. The thin key and the code word which opened this receptacle he placed in a sealed envelope which he left with his lawyers, with instructions to forward the envelope to Stoliker in case of his death or disappearance.

All this accomplished to his satisfaction, he took the Limited to New York, and entered the tall building on Broadway which was body to the brain that directed the activities of Amalgamated Soap. There he asked that his card should be taken to Mr. Nicholson, and, replying to an inquiry that he had no appointment, he was taken into a small but richly furnished waiting-room, which he saw to be one of many on the eleventh floor, where he rested for nearly half an hour before a messenger entered and announced that Mr. Nicholson would be pleased to see him.

HIS FACE WAS WHITE AS CHALK, AND HE COULD NOT SPEAK

Editor's Note—This is the fifth of a series of six stories by Mr. Barr, each independent of the others, but all dealing with "The Speculations of John Steele." The concluding story of the series will appear in an early number.

Nicholson's room was large and sumptuous, with several windows opening on Broadway. The two financiers, big and little, met on the plane of ordinary politeness.

"I have called," said Steele, "to see if we can come to any workable arrangement."

"In what line of activity?" asked Nicholson.

"In a line of passivity rather than of activity," explained Steele with a smile. "When I was a youngster, and engaged in a fight, it was etiquette that as soon as the under boy hollered 'Enough' the fellow on top ceased pummeling him. I have come all the way from Chicago to cry 'Enough.'"

"I fear I do not understand you, Mr. Steele."

"Oh, yes, you do. It will save your time, which I know to be valuable, if we take certain things for granted. When we first met I was so unfortunate as to find myself opposed to you. I admit frankly that I entirely underestimated your genius and your power. Since then, on one occasion you came within an ace of ruining me. On a second and more recent occasion you came within an ace of causing my death. Now I have called at the captain's office to settle. What are your terms?"

Nicholson regarded his visitor with a look in which mild surprise was mingled with equally mild anxiety.

"You are not looking very well, Mr. Steele."

"No, nor feeling well, either, Mr. Nicholson."

"I am sorry to hear it. What is the trouble?"

"Amalgamated Soap, I should say," said John with a dreary laugh. "Excellent for the complexion, but mighty bad for the nerves."

"I shall make no pretense of misunderstanding your meaning, Mr Steele," Nicholson went on with the patient enunciation one uses toward an unreasonable child. "You are hinting that, in revenge for fancied opposition on your part, either I personally or the company with which I am associated, or both, have entered into a conspiracy, first to rob, and secondly to murder you. I hesitate to be so blunt, but, as you quite sensibly remark, we should be frank with each other."

"Your bluntness is more than compensated for by your accuracy, Mr Nicholson. What you describe is exactly what you have done. Mere accident saved me from ruin in the Consolidated Beet Sugar formation. Less than a month ago I was led across the plains by one of your minions, a most charming, beautiful and fascinating young woman, into a death-trap from which I escaped largely through my own ingenuity. Now, I have written down a rather vivid and strictly accurate account of these doings; I have put in your name, and that of Amalgamated Soap, and my own, and there are two copies of this narrative in existence with a slow match attached to them which you can very easily light."

"Meaning that this interesting account will appear in print, Mr. Steele?"

"Quite so. Now, I ask you, Mr Nicholson, is it worth while going any further with this feud?"

"Really, Mr. Steele, it's rather difficult to know what to say without seeming impolite. Many things have been printed about Amalgamated Soap during the last twenty years, and so far they have never been replied to, nor have our dividends been adversely affected. A few of the articles I have read. Some were largely statistical, others of a defamatory character, others again had the two qualities combined. But you, Mr. Steele, threaten to inject a most unusual and interesting quality, namely, that of an attractive young man journeying across the prairies with a beautiful and mysterious young woman. If I raised a finger to prevent the publication of a human document so well calculated to touch the better and more sentimental parts of our nature I should consider I was depriving my fellow-creatures of a source of pure enjoyment. I believe we sometimes unite beauty and soap in our advertisements. Attractive pictures they are. But this romance of the Black Hills——"

"How do you know it was the Black Hills?"

"Didn't you mention the locality?"

"I said the plains."

"Then I beg pardon. This romance of the plains——"

"Now, stop a moment, Nicholson, just stop where you are. Do you see what a mistake you've made? For your own purpose, whatever it may be, you have been pretending that this human document of mine, as you call it, is a myth. Yet in the calm and choice language with which you are describing it you have suddenly given yourself away. You know of the affair in the Black Hills, and, of course, I knew you knew from the very first. Now let us quit sparring. I asked you what your terms were. I am not using threats at all; I am merely trying to come to an arrangement. Suppose on the third attack you succeed in driving me to the wall. What good will it do you?"

"None at all, Mr. Steele; and I assure you I have not the least desire to interfere even in the remotest degree with your affairs. You evidently attribute to me more power than I possess. The undertakings of our association are all a matter of mutual arrangement between the directors, of whom I happen to be one. We meet each day at eleven o'clock, and I trust you will believe me when I say that if I proposed to my colleagues either the robbery or murder of Mr. John Steele I should be very promptly asked to resign my position, and deservedly so."

"You will not come to terms, then?"

"There are no terms to come to."

"Is this your last word, Mr. Nicholson?"

"If you will pardon the liberty I take, Mr. Steele, I shall venture some last words on another subject. As I said when you came in, you are not looking well. Do you know what paranœa means?"

"I do not."

"Then, if you take my advice, you will consult a physician and ask him about it."

"I'll ask you and save the physician's fee. What is paranœa?"

"It is a disease of the brain, and its symptom is fear. The victim imagines that some one, or every one, is plotting against him. All the energies he possesses are directed toward the circumvention of conspiracies that are wholly imaginary. The disease, if not checked, leads to insanity or suicide."

"SUPPOSE ON THE THIRD ATTACK YOU SUCCEED IN DRIVING ME TO THE WALL"

John Steele rose to his feet.

"Does paranœa ever lead to murder, Mr. Nicholson?"

"Quite frequently."

"Then, as I understand the directors of Amalgamated Soap are a most piously inclined body, please solicit their prayers that I may not be afflicted with the malady you mention. I thank you for giving me so much of your time, and now bid you good-day."

"Good-by, Mr. Steele," said Nicholson, rising; then speaking in his suavest manner, he added: "If ever you have any project that requires more capital than you can command I shall be most pleased to submit it to Mr. John Berrington at any time, and perhaps we may be of assistance to you. As I told you before, I have the utmost admiration for your financial ability."

"Thank you, Mr. Nicholson, I shall bear your kind invitation in mind. However, I may inform you that I have entirely dropped out of all speculative business. I am one of the few men who know when they have had enough. I have accumulated all the money I shall need during my lifetime and I intend to take care of it."

"A most sensible resolution, Mr. Steele; and, once more, good-by, with many thanks for the visit."

John Steele walked up Broadway the most depressed man in New York. His attempted compromise had proven a complete failure; his journey East a loss of time. And yet, of what value was time to him, who dared not undertake the most innocent project through fear of the developments that might follow? Nicholson had said that fear was the symptom of the malady he had so graphically depicted. Could it be possible, Steele asked himself, that he was actually the victim of a disease, every indication of which he seemed to possess? Nicholson had evidently planted that thought in his brain to his further disquietude. How that man, who rarely allowed a smile to lighten his face, had inwardly laughed at him, flouted him, defied him, and all with soothing, contemptuous insults!

Steele walked slowly up Broadway until he came to its intersection with Fifth Avenue, and then he followed the latter street, aimlessly making for his hotel. Nevertheless, when he came opposite the hotel he wandered past it and on up the Avenue. Suddenly he shook himself together and dented the cowardliness which he had hitherto attributed to the design forming in his mind. He would appeal to a woman, and if he could not thus circumvent the demoniac Nicholson he would go out of business entirely as he had threatened, and either travel or take up some interesting recreative occupation. He made inquiries, was directed to the Berrington residence, walked up the steps of that palace and rang the bell. A servant in gorgeous livery opened the door to him.

"I wish to speak with Miss Berrington," said Steele.

"Not at 'ome, sir," was the curt answer.

Steele put his hand in his pocket and drew forth a twenty-dollar bill.

"I think the lady is in," he said quietly, handing this legal tender to the man in plush. Even in the residences of millionaires tips of this size are unusual, and the haughty menial at once melted. He pocketed the money.

"No, sir," he said, "she is not in town at all. Speaking confidentially, sir, Miss Berrington's that peculiar, she don't like New York. Her ladyship—I beg your pardon, sir—Miss Berrington is at her country 'ome, some distance out of town, sir."

"How far? Where is it?"

"On a lake, sir. I don't quite remember its name."

"Lake Saratoga?" suggested Steele.

"It begins with a S, sir. Oh, yes, sir, Superior! Lake Superior, sir."

"Great Heavens!" cried Steele, unable to repress a smile. "That isn't just exactly in the environs of New York. I suppose you couldn't tell me whether the house is on the Canadian or the United States side?"

"No, sir, I couldn't say, sir, being it's in Michigan, sir."

The man in plush pronounced the name of the State as if the first syllable was spelled M-i-t-c-h.

"Oh, well, that's near enough! I can guess the rest."

"Yes, sir, her ladyship—beg your pardon—Miss Berrington has a large property there, so they tell me. Thousands and thousands of acres, all covered with forests, and there's a big 'ouse there full of servants, but her lady—but Miss Berrington receives nobody, sir. Not if you brought a letter from the King of Hengland, sir."

"Ha, rather exclusive, isn't she?"

"Yes, sir."

Thanking the man, Steele turned away and walked down the Avenue to his hotel, resolved to let the Berringtons or the Nicholsons do their worst. He would attempt no further parley with any of the gang, and, probably inspired by the accent of the servitor in plush, gave serious thought to the investing of all his money in English consols, small as was the percentage granted by that celebrated security. He took it for granted that the Government of Great Britain was probably free from the influence of the Berrington crowd, and he was rapidly coming to the conclusion that no other sphere of human activity was.

Arrived at his hotel, he found a telegram waiting for him. It proved to be from his oldest and most trusted friend, the vice-president of the Wheat Belt Road, Richard K. Vernon. The telegram ran:

> Congratulate me. Have just been appointed president of the Wheat Belt System. Important development. Great opening here that just suits you, and so I must see you at once. If you cannot come here telegraph me, and I shall leave at once for New York.

"Ye gods!" cried Steele, bracing up his shoulders, while the look of anxiety lately customary to his countenance vanished like the mist before the sun. "Just at the point when

(Continued on Page 22)

A SOCIAL SECRETARY

The Commentaries of a Cæsar in Skirts

THE BARONESS NADESHDA HAS BEEN WILD ABOUT THE BURKES

DECEMBER 27—Three weeks simply boiling with business since I wrote here—and it seems not more than so many days. And all by way of preparation, for the actual season is still five days away.

I can hardly realize that Mrs. Burke is the same person I looked at so dubiously two days less than a month ago. Truly, the right sort of us Americans are wonderful people. To begin with her appearance: her hair isn't "bottled," as she called it, any more. It's beautiful iron-gray, and softens her features and permits all the placid kindliness and humor of her face to show. Then there's her dress—gracious, how tight-looking she was! *A thin* woman can, and should, wear *close* things. But no woman who wishes to look like a lady must ever wear anything *tight*. To be tight in one's clothes is to be tight in one's talk, manner, thought—and that means—well, common. What an expressive word "common" is yet I'm sure I couldn't define it.

For a fat woman to be tight is—revolting! My idea of misery is a fat woman in a tight waist and tight shoes. Yet fat women have a mania for wearing tight things, just as gaunt women yearn for stripes and short women for flounces. My first move in getting Mrs. Burke into shape—after doing away with that dreadful "bottled" hair—was to put her into comfortable clothes. The first time I got her into an evening dress of the right sort I was rewarded for all my trouble by her expression. She kissed me with tears in her eyes. "My dear," said she, "never before did I have a best dress that I wasn't afraid to breathe in for fear I'd bust out, back or front." Then I made her sit down before her long glass and look at herself carefully. She had the prettiest kind of color in her cheeks as she smiled at me and said: "If I'd 'a' looked like this when I was young I reckon Mr. Burke wouldn't 'a' been so easy in his mind when he went away from home, nor 'a' stayed so long. I always did sympathize with pretty women when they capered round, but now I wonder they ever do sober down. If I weighed a hundred pounds or so less I do believe I'd try to frisk yet."

And I do believe she could; for she's really a handsome woman. Why is it that the women who have the most to them don't give it a chance to show through, but get themselves up so that anybody who glances at them tries never to look again?

It is the change in her appearance more even than all she's learned that has given her self-confidence. She feels at ease—and that puts her at ease, and puts everybody else at ease, too. It has reacted upon Mr. Burke. He has dropped brilliantine—perhaps "ma" gave him a quiet hint—and he has taken some lessons in dress from "Cyrus," who really gets himself up very well, considering that he has lived in Germany for three years. I should have hopes that "pa" would blossom out into something very attractive socially if he hadn't a deep-seated notion that he is a great joker. A naturally serious man who tries to be funny is about the most painful object in civilization. Still, Washington is full of statesmen and scholars who try to unbend and be "light," especially with "the ladies." Nothing makes me—or any other woman, I suppose—so angry as for a man to show that he takes me for a fool by making a grimming, cavorting galoot of himself whenever he talks to me. Bucyrus is much that kind of ass. He alternates between solemnity and silliness. I said rather pointedly to him the other night: "You men with your great, deep minds make a mistake in changing your manner when you talk with 'the women and the children.' Nothing pleases us so much as to be taken seriously." But it didn't touch him. However, he's hardly to blame. He's spent a great many years round institutions of learning, and in those places, I've noticed, every one has a musty, fusty sense of humor. Probably it comes from cackling at classical jokes that laughed themselves as dry as a mummy centuries ago.

We've been giving a few entertainments—informal and not large, but highly important. I had two objects in mind: In the first place, to get Mr. and Mrs. Burke accustomed to the style of hospitality they've got to give if they're going to win out. In the second place, to get certain of the kind of people who are necessary to us in the habit of coming to this house—and those people are not so very hard to get hold of now; later they'll be engaged day and night.

For two weeks now I've had my two especial features going. One of them is for the men, the other for the women. And I can see already that they alone would carry us through triumphantly; for they've caught on.

My men's feature is a breakfast. I engaged a particularly good cook—the best old-fashioned Southern cook in Washington. Rachel had her, and I persuaded Mr. Derby to consent to giving her up to us, just for this season. Cleopatra—that's her name—has nothing to do but get together every morning by nine o'clock the grandest kind of an old-fashioned American breakfast. And I explained to Senator Burke that he was to invite some of his colleagues, as many as he liked, and to tell them to come any morning, or every morning if they wished, and bring as many of their friends as they pleased.

I consult with Cleopatra every day as to what she's to have the next morning; and I think dear old father taught me what kind of a breakfast men like. I don't give them too much, or they'd be afraid to come and risk indigestion a second time. I see to it that everything is perfectly cooked—and it's pretty hard for any man to get indigestion, even from corned beef hash and hot cornbread and buckwheat cakes with maple syrup, if it's perfectly cooked and is eaten in a cheerful frame of mind. No women are permitted at these breakfasts—just men, with everything free and easy, plenty to smoke, separate tables, but each large enough so that there's always room at any one of them for one more who might otherwise be uncomfortable. Even now we have from fifteen to twenty men—among them the very best in Washington. In the season we'll have thirty and forty, and our house will be a regular club from nine till eleven for the men who "cut ice," as they call it.

My other big feature is an informal dance every Wednesday night. It's already as great a success in its way as the breakfasts are in theirs. I've been rather careful about whom I let Mrs. Burke tell it to that they could come in on Wednesdays whenever they liked. The result is that everybody is pleased; the affairs seem to be "exclusive," yet are not. I know it will do the Burkes a world of good politically, because a certain kind of people who are important politically, but have had no chance socially, are coming to us on Wednesdays, and that's just the kind of people who are frantically flattered by the idea that they are "in the push."

Speaking of being "in the push," there are two ways of getting there if one isn't there. One is to worm your way in, the other is to make yourself the head and front of "the push." That's the way for those who have money and know how. And that's the way the Burkes are getting in—getting in at the front instead of at the rear.

It's most gratifying to see how Mr. Burke treats me. He always has been deferential, but he now shows that he thinks I have real brains. And since his breakfasts have become the talk of the town and are "patronized" by the men he's so eager to get hold of, he is even consulting me about his business. I am criticising for him now a speech he's going to make on the canal question next month—a dreadfully dull speech, and I don't feel competent to tell him what to do with it. I think I'll advise him not to speak it, tell him his forte is diplomacy—winning men round by personal dealing with them—which is the truth.

Young Mr. Burke—after a period of unbending—is now shyer than ever. I wondered why until it happened to occur to me one day as I was talking with Jessie. I suddenly said to her: "Jessie, did you ever tell Nadeshda that you had planned to marry me to Cyrus Burke?"

She hopped about in her chair a bit, as uneasy as a bird on a swaying perch. Then she confessed that she "might have suggested before Nadeshda what a delightfully satisfactory thing it would be."

I laughed to relieve her mind—also because it amused me to see through Nadeshda.

Of course, one of the women I needed most in this Burke campaign was Nadeshda. And I happened to know that she is bent on marrying a rich American—indeed, that's the only reason why the wilds of America are favored with the presence of the beautiful, joy-loving, courted and adored Baroness Nadeshda Daragane. The yarn about her sister, the ambassadress, being an invalid and shrinking from the heavy social responsibilities of the embassy is just so much trash. So, as soon as "Cyrus" came I went over to see her and, as diplomatically as I knew how, displayed before her dazzled eyes the substantial advantages of the sole heir of the great Western multi-millionaire. As I went on to tell how generous the Senator is, and how certain he would be to lavish wealth upon his daughter-in-law, I could see her mind at work. A fascinating, naughty, treacherous little mind it is—like a small Swiss watch of the rarest workmanship and full of wheels within wheels. And she's a beautiful little creature, as warm as a tropical sun to look at, and about as cold as the Arctic regions to deal with. No, I haven't begun to describe her. I'd not be surprised to hear that she had eloped with her brother-in-law's coachman; nor should I be surprised to hear that she had married the most hideous, revolting man in the world for his money and was suspected of being engaged in trying to hasten him off to the grave. She's of the queer sort that would kiss or kill with equal enthusiasm, capable of almost any virtue or vice—on impulse. If there's any part of her beneath the impulsive part it's solid ice in a frame of steel. But—is there? She's talked about a good deal—not a tenth enough to satisfy her craving for notoriety, and, I may add, not a tenth part so much as she deserves to be, and would be if we studied character on this side of the water instead of being too busy with ourselves to look beneath anybody else's surface.

Well, the Baroness Nadeshda has been wild about the Burkes ever since we had our talk. And she has Mr. Cyrus thoroughly tangled in her nets, and the Senator, too. And, naturally, she lost no time in trying to "do" me. She has told Bucyrus what a designing creature I am—no doubt has warned him that if I seem distant to him I'm at my deadliest, and to look out for mines. He certainly is looking out for them, for, whenever I speak to him, he acts as if he were stepping round on a volcano. I'm having a good deal of fun with him. I wish I had the time; I'd try to teach him a very valuable lesson. Really, it's a shame to let a man go through life imagining that he's an all-conqueror when in reality the woman who marries him will feel that she's swallowing about

I CONSULT WITH CLEOPATRA EVERY DAY

as bitter a dose as Fate ever presented to feminine lips in a gold spoon.

Dear old "Ma" Burke hasn't yet yielded to Nadeshda's blandishments. We went to the embassy to call yesterday afternoon at tea time, and I saw her watching Nadeshda in that smiling, simple way of hers that conceals about as keen a brain as—well, as I shouldn't care to have tearing me to pieces for inspection

The embassy at tea-time is always wild. For then Sophie comes in with her monkey and Nadeshda's seven dogs are racing about. And the Count always laughs loudly, usually at nothing at all. And each time he laughs the dogs bark until the monkey, in a great fright, dashes up the curtains or flings himself at Sophie and almost strangles her with his paws or arms, or whatever they are, round her neck. I don't think I've ever been there that something hasn't been spilt for a huge mess; often the whole tea-table topples over. Mrs Burke loves to go, for afterward she laughs a dozen times a day until her sides ache

As we came away yesterday I said to her: "What a fascinating, beautiful creature Nadeshda is."

Mrs. Burke smiled. "When I was a girl," she said, "I had a catamount for a pet—a cub, and they had cut his claws. He was beautiful and mighty fascinating—you never did know when he was going to fawn on you and when he was going to fasten his teeth in you. The Baroness puts me in mind of my old pet, and how I didn't know which was harder—to keep him or to give him up."

"She certainly has a strange nature," said I.

After a pause Mrs. Burke went on: "She's the queerest animal in this menagerie here, so far as I've seen. And I don't think I'm wrong in suspecting she's sitting up to Cyrus."

"I don't wonder he finds her interesting," said I

"Cyrus is just like his pa," said she; "a mighty poor judge of women. It was lucky for his pa that he married and settled down before he had much glitter to catch the eyes of the women. Otherwise, he'd 'a' made a ridiculous fool of himself. But I like a man the women can fool easy. That shows he's honest These fellows that are so sharp at getting on to the tricks of the women ain't, as a rule, good for much else. But Cyrus has got *me* to look after him."

"He might do much worse than marry Nadeshda," said I

"That's what his pa says," she replied "But I ain't got round to these new-fashioned notions of marriage. I want to see my Cyrus married to the sort of woman his ma'd like and be proud to have for the mother of her grandchildren. And I ain't altogether sure we need the kind of tone in our blood that a catamount'd bring. Though I must say a year or so of living with a catamount might do Cyrus a world of good."

Which shows that even love can't altogether blind "Ma" Burke

JANUARY 3—I had to do a little scheming to get Mrs. Burke an invitation to assist at the New Year's reception. It's always the first event of the season, and, though it would have been no great matter if I hadn't been able to get her in among those who stand near the President's wife and the Cabinet women, still I felt that I couldn't get my "pulls" into working order any too soon Ever since the second week in my "job" I've realized that nothing could be easier than to put the Burkes well to the front, but my ambition to make them first calls for the exertion of every energy.

So, in the third week of December I set Rachel at Mrs Senator Lumley and Mrs. Admiral Bixby—the two women who can get almost anything in reason out of the President's wife. Rachel is about the most important woman in the old Washington aristocracy, and the Lumleys and the Bixbys are in the nature of fixtures here, not at all like an evanescent President or Cabinet person. So Rachel's request set the two women to work. And although the President's wife said she'd asked all she intended to ask, far too many, and didn't see why on earth she should be beset for a newcomer who had been reported to her as fat and impossible, still she finally yielded.

I hadn't hoped to get an invitation for them for the Cabinet dinner, and I was astounded when it came. We had arranged to give a rather large, informal dinner that night, and had to call it off, as an invitation from the White House, even from the obscurest member of the President's family for any old function whatever, is a command that may not be disobeyed Well, as I was saying, the invitation to the Cabinet dinner came unsought. It seems that the Burke breakfasts are making a great stir politically . so great a stir that they have made the President a little uneasy. Of course, the best way to get rid of an opponent is to conciliate him. Hence the command to Senator and Mrs. Burke to appear at the President's dinner to his ministers.

Mrs. Burke is tremendously proud of her first two communications from the White House. . As for the Senator, he looks at them half a dozen times a day

I went down to the New Year's reception to see how "ma" was getting on. As I had expected, she didn't stand very long. She cast about for a chair, and, seeing one, planted herself

Soon the Baroness joined her, and young Prince Krepousky joined Nadeshda, and then General Martin, who loves Mrs. Burke for the feeds she gives. The group grew, and Mrs. Burke began to talk in her drawling, humorous way, and Nadeshda laughed, which made the others laugh—for it's impossible to resist Nadeshda. When I arrived Mrs. Burke was right in it."

And after a while the President came and said: "Is this your reception, madam, or is it mine?" At which there was more laughing. Then they all went up to have something to eat, and the President spent most of the time with her.

She doesn't need any more coaching. Of course, she's flattered by the success she's having. But instead of having her head turned, as most women do who get the least bit of especial attention from the conspicuous men here, she takes it all very placidly. "They don't care shucks for me," she says, "and I know it. We're all in business together, and I'm mighty glad it can be carried on so cheerful-like." At the Cabinet dinner, to-morrow night, she'll have to sit well down toward the foot of the table. But she won't mind that. Indeed, if I hadn't been giving her lessons in precedence she wouldn't have an idea that everything here is arranged by rank

AS I HAD EXPECTED, SHE DIDN'T STAND VERY LONG

Jessie—so she tells me—had a half-hour's session with "Cyrus" the other day and gave him a very exalted idea of my social position and influence. No doubt, what she said confirmed his suspicion that I and my friends are conspiring against him; but I observe a distinct change in his manner toward me. He's even humble. I suppose he thought I was some miserable creature whom his mother had taken on, half out of charity. I'm afraid I have a sort of family pride that's a little ridiculous—but I can't help it. Still, I am American enough to despise people who are courteous or otherwise according as they look up to or look down on the particular person's family and position. I guess young Mr Burke is his father in an aggravated form. Yet Jessie, and Rachel, too, pretend to like him. And probably they really do—it's not hard to like any one who is not asking favors and is in a position to grant them, and isn't so near to one that his quills stick into one

The Countess of Wend came in to see me this afternoon and told me all about the row over at their legation. It seems that the new minister is a plebeian, and in their country people of his sort aren't noticed by the upper classes unless an upper classman happens to need something to wipe his boots on and one of them is convenient for use. Well, every attaché is in a fury, and none of them will speak to the minister except in the most formal way and only when it's absolutely necessary As for the minister's wife, the other women—but what's the use of describing it; we all know how nasty women can be about matters of rank. Wend is talking seriously of resigning.

I'd be dreadfully sorry, as Eugénie is a dear, and more like an American than a foreigner; and I believe she really likes us where most of them privately despise us as a lot of low-born upstarts. I know they laugh all day long at the President's mannerisms—but then, so do we, for that matter. And it's quite unusual for Washington, where each President is bowed down to and praised everywhere and flattered till he thinks he's a sort of god—and forgotten as soon as his term is ended I suppose there's nothing deader on this earth than an ex-President, with no offices to distribute and no hopes for a further political career

JANUARY 9—We had a beautiful dinner here last night—very brilliant too, as we all were going to a ball at the Russian embassy afterward. All the diplomats and army men were in uniform—and one or two of the army men were really brilliant. But none of the diplomats. They say that no nation sends us its best. It seems that diplomats don't amount to so much in this day of cables.

But, to return to our dinner, Mrs. Burke went in with the German ambassador, and I saw that they were getting on famously. He is a very clever man in a small way, and has almost an American sense of humor. As soon as he saw that she intended what she said to be laughed at he gave himself up to it. "Your Mrs. Burke is charming, Miss Tailtowers," said he to me after dinner. "She ranks with Bret Harte and Mark Twain. It's only in America that you find old women who make you forget to wish you were with young and pretty women."

Jim Lafollette took me in—the first time I've had him here. I must say he behaved very well and was the handsomest man in the room. But he never has much to say that is worth hearing. Though conversation at Washington in society isn't on any too high a plane, as a rule—how could conversation in a mixed society anywhere be very high?—still it isn't the wishy-washy chatter and gossip that Jim Lafollette delights in. Of course, army officers almost always go in for gossip—that comes from sitting round with their women at lonely posts where nothing occurs. And they, as a rule, either gossip or simply drivel when they talk to women, because all the women that ever liked them liked them for their brass buttons, and all the women they ever liked they liked for their pretty faces and empty heads. So, usually, to get an army officer at dinner is to sit with a bowl of soft taffy held to your lips and a huge spoonful of it thrust into your mouth every time you stop talking. That's true of many of the statesmen, too, especially the heavyweights. I suppose I'm wrong, but I can't help suspecting a man without a sense of humor of being a solemn fraud.

You'd think American women—at the Capital, at least—would be interested in politics and things like that. But they're not. They say it's the vulgarity of the intriguing and of most of the best intriguers that makes them dislike politics, even here. I suspect there's another reason. We women are so petted by the men that we don't have to know anything to make ourselves agreeable. If we're pretty and listen well that's all that's necessary. So, why get headaches learning things?

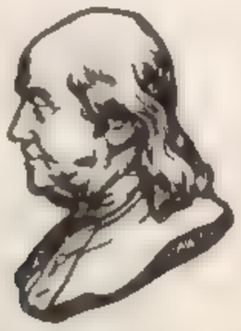
Of course, there are exceptions. Take Maggie Shotwell. She's got a perfect fool—not a point missing—for a husband Yet in eleven years she has advanced him from a second secretary to a minister to a second-class Power just by showing up here at intervals and playing the game intelligently. And there are scores of army women who do as well in a smaller way, and a few of the diplomats' wives are most adroit, intriguing well both here and at their homes in a nice, clean way, as intrigue goes.

But most of the women are like "Ma" Burke, who'd as soon think of entering for a foot-race as of interfering in her husband's political affairs in any way, beyond giving him some sound advice about the men that can be trusted and the men that can't. I suppose if there were real careers in public life in this country, not dependent upon elections, the Washington women wouldn't be so lazy and indifferent, but would wake up and intrigue their brothers and sons and other male relatives into all sorts of things. Then, too, a man has to vote with his "party" on everything that's important, and his "party" is a small group of old men who are beyond social blandishments and go to bed early every night, and associate only with men in the daytime

No, we women don't amount to much *directly* at Washington. If Jim Lafollette had kept away from the women and society he might have amounted to something. It's become a proverb that whenever a young man comes here and goes in for the social end of it he is doomed soon to disappear and be heard of no more. The President is trying to make society amount to something, but he won't

(Continued on Page 32)

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST



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The Hole in Your Purse

WITH spring just out of sight beyond the approaching horizon, laboring men are beginning to talk of increases of wages and of strike projects and plans. It is a good idea to talk and think of higher wages—the next best thing to talking and thinking of doing one's work more intelligently and more faithfully. But does it ever occur to wage-earners that it is useless—and even a little silly—to arrange for more money to flow into your pocket when there is a large and unguarded hole in the bottom of it?

Wages absorb the attention of workers. *Prices*—how little attention, comparatively, they pay to them! If the increase of wages is more than balanced by the increase of prices enhanced to make good the increase of wages, how does the wage-earner benefit?

Dangerous Precedents

MANY—notably, just now, the United States Senators—are much perturbed lest the President, in executing his omnibus commission to make at least a stagger and a stab at righting whatever he thinks wrong, shall establish "dangerous precedents." Nothing so flutters the cotes of conservatism as does a "precedent." If there is a precedent for whatever is proposed the doves and owls are eager for it, but if there is not one cannot hear one's self think for the clamor.

What are the facts about "precedents"? Are they not, first, that the precedent for doing the right thing in the right way cannot be established too soon; second, that, no matter how many the precedents for doing a thing wrong, the sooner and the more utterly they are disregarded the better; and third, that no people was ever deprived of any material part of its rights for any great length of time solely by the establishment of a "dangerous precedent"?

A "dangerous precedent" established as a rule of action may be a sign that a people has hopelessly lost its virtue. Otherwise, it is dangerous only to the rash fool who makes it.

The Real "Trust-Busters"

AT THIS writing the prospect seems to be that, if the millennium of industrial justice does not burst immediately into full day without the preliminaries of a dawn, it will not be the fault of the President and the Congress. To read the laws in process of enactment ought to make the hair of givers and takers of industrial privilege "to stand on end like quills upon the fretful porpentine." Why, then, do they continue to go about with their locks slicked down and with smiling faces?

Perhaps because Congress is not now enacting against a single offense that is not under long-existing law already a penitentiary matter. New laws usually mean not fewer offenders but more and fatter fees for the lawyers. There are your true "trust-busters." Pile up the laws. Pile up the work for the lawyers; and "counsel fees" will "bust the trusts"—perhaps.

Hopeless England

ENGLISH medical scientists say that one-third of the farm-laborers of England die of softening of the brain. And they attribute this to the fact that the English farm-laborer, having nothing to think about, does no thinking. His unused brain withers, shrivels, moulders, and he dies young.

The real reason, however, is deeper. The English farm-laborer has no hope. He knows that he must live and die a farm-laborer, that his wages will never rise beyond what is absolutely necessary to keep a leaky roof over his head and to provide him with not quite enough food of a not too nourishing kind. Those bring the conditions, fixed irrevocably upon him by the tyranny of class and caste—conditions paralleled only in Russia and some parts of Italy. How fortunate that he does not think! And, since he has no real reason for living, how fortunate that he dies young!

It is hard for us to understand this—for us who live in a land where hope is as universal and as free and as fresh as the air and the sunshine that makes it sparkle.

Breaking the Big Stick

IT HAS not been so many years, as history goes, since public sentiment regarded a man as dishonored if he appealed to a court for redress of a wrong done him by a fellowman. So recent is this, in fact, that some people still argue that in many cases private vengeance is a right and duty. Yet to-day, in civilized countries, the overwhelming majority of men recognize the essential barbarity and injustice of private vengeance, and compel the individual to act on the supremacy of impartial courts, which but yesterday were sneered at as the concoction of "base weaklings."

We "human warriors," with our imperfect sense of historical proportion, love to use such words as "immutable" and "irrevocable." But the truth is that nothing is immutable, not even the war spirit. Nevertheless, the war spirit is going the way of other stupidities and brutalities; and those who find in its decline evidence of degeneration would better read history a little more carefully. They might there learn that not peace, but the spread of the passion for armed quarreling, for bloodletting, wholesale and retail, is the invariable accompaniment and sign of the rapid decay of a people.

Too Many Laws

AT WASHINGTON, and at every State capital where a legislature is in session, and at the city halls of every municipality, the air is heavy with appeals and proposals for new laws. And no doubt some of these appeals and proposals should be listened to. Further, very few of them are wholly without merit. Especially is this true of the unwise and the bad ones. A bad bill is always like a measure of forced-season strawberries—it has its surface sprinkled with attractiveness.

The main point, however, is that everywhere we do not need new laws; we have too many already; what we need is the sensible and honest enforcement of existing laws. And we shall never be greatly better off until we shut our ears against reformers shouting for new legislation, and tricky politicians calling for new grants of power, when their only purpose is to distract public attention from the fact that they already have, under existing law, all the power they need, if they would but use it. Sensible judges with fogless minds, sensible executives with courage and honesty—that is our need. And swelling the statute-books only postpones the filling of that need.

Stranger than Fiction

MOST of us have heard that truth is stranger than fiction, but the fact is seldom borne in upon us as it was lately, in the manner in which a moonshiner was brought to justice. He had evaded one revenue officer and was fleeing through the woods from the other. Hearing a crash and a cry behind him, he stopped and learned that his pursuer had fallen and broken an arm. The night was bitter cold, and the forest a trackless waste. The moonshiner went back, cared for his pursuer and led him to his comrade and to shelter—only to be spurned and put in jail.

No reader will doubt that the moonshiner acted nobly and magnanimously, and none will deny that the officers did their duty, however disagreeable. They were true men, all. But as to him the incident is a sheer impossibility. The scheme of the universe, to mortal eye, is immeasurable, inscrutable. "Yet I doubt not," sang Tennyson, "through the ages one increasing purpose runs." But what the purpose is we only dimly surmise. "His ways are not our ways, His thoughts are not our thoughts."

In fiction we require to see and know the beginning and the end of all. The history of the universe, as it flows by us in the making, is without any definite form, any exactly discernible meaning. The work of the artist is to give form and meaning to some detached bit of it. "No incident in life is complete," Miss Josephine Dodge Daskam lately remarked. Over Mr. Clyde Fitch's work-table hangs the motto, "Not life, but illusion based on life: that is art." In life virtue often seems its only reward; but in our hearts we know that it is not. And that is why the fate of the moonshiner, so just and right as it happened, would seem in fiction to be sordid and cynical.

Elaborate Mr. James

THE excursion of Henry James to the land of his birth has aroused a discussion of his work that extends far beyond the limited circle which professes to have the time and the patience to read his marvelous elaborations of what people who do not think might have thought if they had found anything they thought worthy of thinking about and had been reminded to think about it. To survivors of the period—sometimes called the "Dark Ages"—when men gave a great deal of time to discussing how many angels could stand on the point of a needle, Mr. James is a boon and a blessing. But in what way do the arduous labors of Mr. James' undoubtedly excellent mind contribute to our knowledge of human life—external or internal, past, present or future? What shall it profit the mountain to labor if it give forth not even the substantiality of a mouse, but only the unsubstantiality of a squeak, that might or might not have been a mouse's, and possibly was a mere imagination?

Mr. James comes in the year when the world is about to celebrate the turning of another century since the creation of Don Quixote, whom Sancho Panza has made immortal with his wise and witty condensations of human experience.

Truth vs. Subtlety

THROUGHOUT the land, especially in the cities, there is a notable revival of the debating society. This is gratifying. A republic can live and grow in health only if the people are continually learning how to reason better—and what instrument to developing the reasoning faculty better than the debating society?

But, like every good thing, the debating society offers subtle temptations to mischief. It is altogether improving for a young man or young woman to learn to look at all sides of a question—that develops fairness, tolerance, freedom from prejudice. But the profound meaning of the proverb, "There are two sides to every question," is that there is a right side and a wrong side. And what could be worse for a youth with a natural talent for subtlety than to be constantly thinking up tricky plausibilities to present as arguments for the wrong side of the question his club is debating?

Out West, in three splendid, earnest colleges, they used to guard against this evil by having a censor whose business it was, after the judges had given their decision, to take up both the matter and the method of the several speakers and show where they had failed of truth. A wise plan. No debating society should be without its censor, and he should be fitted for his work.

The Sin of the Tempter

THE latest photograph of the man who is the directing energy of the very meanest and most pervasive monopoly in this country shows a face of the highest manly beauty—regular, sensitive features; fine, sympathetic eyes; lips that one would think could not be opened to utter a harsh or cruel word. One is not surprised to hear that this man is generous to his employees, idolized by his family, beloved by hosts of friends, the first to give in good causes of every kind. Yet his wealth is the result of oppressions that have made life harder for millions.

Strange, isn't it? How a system can undermine the conscience of a man! How habit can blind us to our own transgressions! And what a crime that the people should permit systems to exist and commercial habits to grow that result in such high talents and instincts as that man's being perverted and put to base uses! Greater than the sin of the tempted is the sin of the tempter!

A Political Millennium

IT IS easy to foresee when we shall have the political millennium in this country. It will come just as soon as every and any public official, high or low, knows that if he does his duty he will be reelected or promoted, and that if he doesn't do his duty, then, as surely as the coming of the next election day, he will be thrown out and need never hope to be intrusted with office again.

Meanwhile we shall continue to get what we invite.

THE TRUST INQUISITOR

The Man Who Commands the Secrets of Every Business Concern in the Country

BY J. J. DICKINSON

ALTHOUGH the newest Executive Department of the Government—that of Commerce and Labor—has been in operation two years, so quietly and unostentatiously has it gone about its work that only a small fraction of the public seems to be aware of its existence; and as to its operations a still smaller fraction appears to know anything. Yet there is working through the Department of Commerce and Labor a new and tremendously potent force—a startlingly novel assertion of republican government. I refer to the Bureau of Corporations. The act creating the Bureau of Corporations bears upon its face the evidence of having been an afterthought in the minds of the men who conceived, framed and promoted the legislation that brought into being the Department of Commerce and Labor. When one knows something of the "inside" of things at Washington, one wonders how it happened that a Bureau vested with such power was permitted to get through the legislative hopper without being emasculated. It is true, however, that partial emasculation was performed, in that the railroads—"common carriers" they are called euphemistically in the law—were specifically exempted from the jurisdiction or supervision of the Bureau.

That paragraph of the section of the law creating the Bureau of Corporations reads:

"The said Commissioner of Corporations shall have power and authority to make, under the direction and control of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, diligent investigation into the organization, conduct and management of the business of any corporation, joint-stock company or corporate combination engaged in commerce among the several States and with foreign nations, excepting common carriers, subject to 'an act to regulate commerce,' approved February 4, 1887, and to gather such information and data as will enable the President of the United States to make recommendations to Congress for legislation for the regulation of such commerce, and to report such data to the President from time to time as he shall require; and the information so obtained, or as much thereof as the President may direct, shall be made public."

Hence, by the very organic law of the Department of Commerce and Labor, the President is virtually Commissioner of Corporations. He not only selects the chief of the Bureau, but, under the general powers of his executive authority, he may direct the work of the Bureau. He may say what corporations, joint-stock companies, combinations or trusts engaged in interstate or foreign commerce shall be investigated, the form, course and extent of the investigation, and finally what action may be taken by the Executive Department of the Government to check any harm to the public interest that the concern subjected to his surveillance may be working. He can—and perhaps does—go even further and designate special agents of the Bureau who are sent into the field to do the practical work. For this purpose he may suspend the Civil Service rules in order that such agents as he selects may be commissioned. A perusal of the section of the law quoted above will show that the President may make himself the sole and exclusive custodian of the reports of investigations made by the special agents to the Bureau. These reports are carefully digested by experts and submitted to the President for his information. Besides, as will be shown later, he is in close and constant communication with his Commissioner of Corporations, and thus may be daily informed of the progress of investigations under way, of the discoveries as to methods of corporations made by special agents in the field.

In brief, it is doubtful if any ruler of a civilized nation in the world to-day has at his command such a potent instrument for the public weal or woe as has been placed in the hands of the President of the United States by the creation of the Bureau of Corporations. The limits of the inquisitorial powers of the Bureau have not yet been defined by the courts, nor, so far as known, have they been tested. The Bureau has made and is making "diligent investigation into the organization, conduct and management of the business" of corporations, joint-stock companies and corporate combinations engaged in interstate and foreign commerce, and if the President has not already done so he is privileged to read reports sent in by agents in the field. He also is empowered, at any time and apropos of nothing in particular, to publish these reports in any manner he may see fit. He can do this either by sending the reports to Congress or by publishing them out of hand. It is a mooted question whether Congress, having delegated this extraordinary power to the President, has the right to demand of him full reports of any investigation. Congress can, of course, so revise or amend the law as to divert the reports from the Executive to the Legislative Department of the Government. Under existing statutory provisions, however, the President has practical control of this greatest of all of his agencies of information and publicity. It is even doubtful whether a member of Congress has the right to examine the reports on file in the Bureau. If this privilege is open to members of Congress it is also open to their representatives—their private secretaries, clerks, messengers, etc.—and thus a big leak might be sprung through which the country and the world might be flooded with parboiled information concerning business institutions that possibly would work incalculable harm to those interests.

From Columbus to Washington

HENCE, the President and only two other officials of the Government—the Secretary of Commerce and Labor and the Commissioner of Corporations—are now or soon can become the sole custodians of private business secrets of vital concern, not alone to the institutions directly involved but also to the whole country. Were they or any of them so disposed, either by unfortunate temperamental weakness or viciousness, great injury could be inflicted upon guilty or innocent corporations, or the gullible and greedy public. This could be done in one of several ways. Premature publicity of undigested data might be made; hasty conclusions could be drawn from specious premises, leading to the tremendous power of the Government being brought to bear against unoffending institutions; or false rumors might be set afloat by wicked or unfit special agents of the Bureau. Or, worse still—and this is to be spoken only in the lowest and the huskiest of whispers—that monstrous ogre, which sprang full-panoplied from the perfervid imaginations of some of the Democratic campaign managers and editors toward the close of the last Presidential contest, might actually stalk forth from his dank, cavernous lair—*Blackmail!*

For these reasons, it behooved the President and his first Secretary of Commerce and Labor—George Bruce Cortelyou, who is soon to become Postmaster-General—to exercise the greatest care and caution in the organization of the Bureau of Corporations. Other Bureaus in the new Department were merely transferred bodily from other Executive Departments of the Government—mainly from the Treasury, Interior and State. All of these Bureaus were fully officered, equipped and experienced. Only two new Governmental Bureaus were authorized by the law creating the Department of Commerce and Labor—the Bureau of Corporations and the Bureau of Manufactures. The latter has only very recently been put into operation by President Roosevelt's order designating J. Hampton Moore, of Philadelphia, as its first chief. But such importance was attached by the President to the character and authorized functions of the Bureau of Corporations that he selected its first Chief or Commissioner simultaneously with the first Secretary of the Department. His choice was James Rudolph Garfield, second son of the late President.

Mr. Garfield was at that time a member of the Civil Service Commission. The only other office he had held prior to his appointment by President Roosevelt to the Civil Service Commission was that of State Senator in Ohio, his native State. He was not a conspicuous figure at Columbus. The reason for this was twofold. In this country of ours the son of a great man—and especially if sired by a man who has reached the Presidency—must be content to move in the shadow projected by the public stature of his father. The fame of our Presidents endures among us. It overshadows even to the third and fourth generation their descendants of the male line. So true is this that it has become a national axiom that our great men leave no great sons. Perhaps it is good for us that this belief is ingrained in our national life. Perhaps it is one of those multitudinous inheritances that have come down to us from the rugged men and women who hazarded their precious lives to establish the doctrine that entail and primogeniture are wicked and oppressive principles. It may have been this, or it may have been something else, that prevented James Rudolph Garfield from wielding sufficient power and influence in the Ohio Legislature to impress his ideals and principles upon Buckeye affairs. The politicians at Columbus viewed him with indifference, if not with mistrust. Neither Foraker men nor Hanna men warmed to him. But for the favor of President Roosevelt he probably to-day would be merely a respectable but not overburdened lawyer in Cleveland, instead of one of the most-talked-about men in American public life and the not impossible successor of Theodore Roosevelt as the Republican leader in 1908. But this part of the story belongs in another place.

A close view of the man, which has been gained from an official association necessarily confidential in a sense, enables me to speak somewhat intimately of this second son of one of our murdered Presidents. A liberal acquaintance with his father's career fits me to compare sire and son. Thus far I have been able to discover only one intellectual trait that is common to both—that is, persistence, which usually is another name for patience. This kind of patience denotes a

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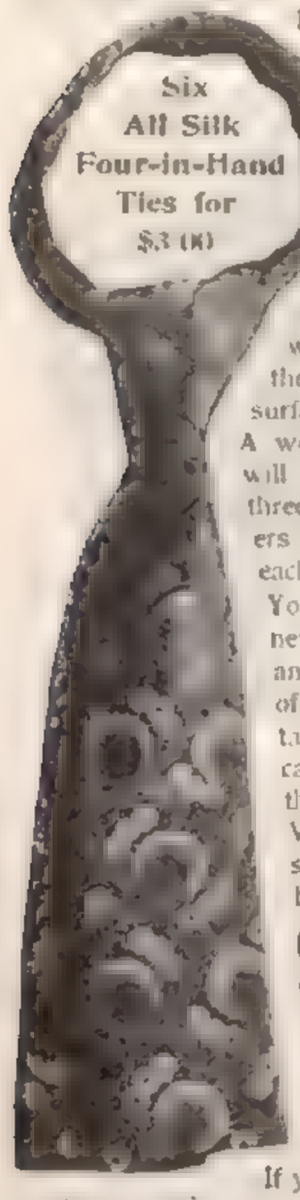

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reserve power of philosophy and industry that in the end achieves the results sought The son has the father's industry without the father's superabundant physical strength He has thus far displayed none of the scintillant qualities of mind that made his father loom among a multitude of brilliant men Where the father had cunning the son has caution. Where the father had dash and audacity the son has care and modesty. But "caution"—caution is the word that describes the dominant trait of mind he has displayed to a notable extension which at times I have thought bordered on timidity. Withal, there is in his make-up a becoming sense of humor that renders him companionable. He was with his father in the railroad station at Washington when the maniac Guiteau fired the assassin's bullet into the unsuspecting Chief Magistrate's back. He was then seventeen years old—just at the age when the mind is most susceptible to impressions. The indescribable shock of that wretched tragedy has left its mark upon his face, the expression of which is one of half-sadness even when he smiles. It may be the influence of that awful scene that has imparted to his nature a caution that seems to mark his every move; or it may be his peculiarly close and confidential relations with President Roosevelt, imposing, as all such relations must, a burdensome sense of responsibility

It is not yet widely known, but it is a fact nevertheless, that the President has no closer or more confidential friend than Mr. Garfield The Commissioner of Corporations is consulted almost daily—frequently more than once a day—by the President. These consultations pertain not exclusively to the affairs under Mr. Garfield's official jurisdiction, but embrace the general policies of the Administration. In fact, there is no member of the Cabinet who is more often appealed to or more respectfully heeded by President Roosevelt than is this young man of thirty-nine. Although the law specifies that the work of the Bureau of Corporations shall be conducted "under the direction and control" of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, as a matter of fact it is known that the President deals directly with Commissioner Garfield on all subjects pertaining to the organization, conduct and management of corporations that may be under investigation. It may, therefore, be inferred that the President is kept very closely advised of the progress of investigations under way. It is, indeed, not irrational to suppose that, if he is so minded, the President can learn every night before he goes to bed just what special agents in the field have reported concerning the capitalization and methods of any corporation or alleged trust or combine that may be under investigation. A possible extension of this system would give the Chief Magistrate an espionage over the vast business interests of the nation which no other ruler on earth is known to possess; and President Roosevelt is such a glutton for work that there is no doubt of his ability to master and hold in mind the details which his Commissioner of Corporations is directed to lay before him

Neither as a matter of law nor fact does the Commissioner of Corporations await instructions from Congress before instituting investigations. Of course, if Congress as a whole or by either branch directs by resolution or otherwise the investigation of a particular corporation, it is met with very ready response by the Commissioner. In such a case he instantly sets the machinery of his Bureau in action along the line marked out It may happen, however, to the surprise of Congress and the public, that the investigation called for was already under way or completed, in which event all the facts and other data desired are immediately available for the use of the law makers—in the discretion of the President: for be it understood that, under the organic law of the Department, all such information gathered and compiled by the Bureau of Corporations is primarily for the use of the President, and Congress can obtain only so much of it as the President may see fit to report

A case in point is the investigation of the Beef Trust The House by resolution called for this investigation last March, not knowing that the Bureau had been quietly working on the subject a month or more. When the resolution reached the Secretary of the Department and Commissioner Garfield it was discovered that it requested that the results of the investigation be reported to Congress. The Secretary and the Commissioner immediately called the attention of the House to the fact that to comply literally with the directions of the resolution a special appropriation would have to be provided, in view of the fact that the organic law of the

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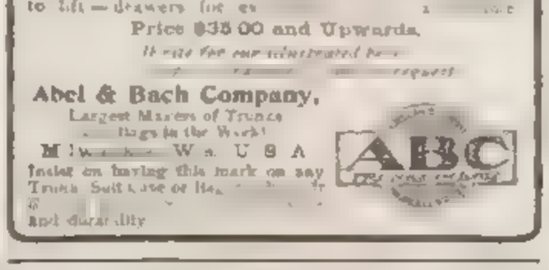

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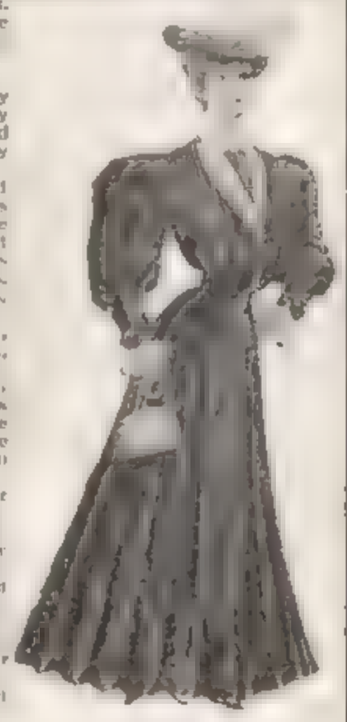

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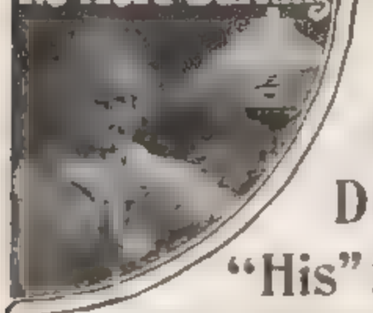

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Department directs that the results of all investigations made by the Bureau of Corporations be reported only to the President. The original resolution was then promptly amended so as to comply with the law. Thus the results of the Bureau's thorough and exhaustive inquiry into the operations of the Beef Trust will be laid by Commissioner Garfield on President Roosevelt's desk, and not on the desk of either the Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate.

But the beef inquiry is only one of several quite as important investigations that are being made along similar lines under the direction of Commissioner Garfield, to say nothing of the work of experts in various economic and industrial fields that is going on under his supervision at the same time in the Bureau. For example, consider the exhaustive research involved in the work which resulted in the Commissioner's recommendation to the President for the enactment of a law by Congress for bringing all corporations engaged in interstate or foreign commerce under direct Federal supervision by subjecting them to a license system. Several lawyers of long experience labored on this proposition alone for nearly a year. The fact that this recommendation has excited more serious discussion among all sorts and conditions of men in the United States than has been excited by any other proposition or action of the present Administration demonstrates at once its vast importance, and the care and labor required to present it in rounded and finished form for public consideration before being accepted or rejected by the President as an Administration policy.

More than sixty experts in various lines are employed in the Bureau. In organizing his working force, Commissioner Garfield drew liberally on college faculties for political economists and social scientists of recognized standing. Numerous great law firms of the country have contributed some of their brightest and best-trained assistants to the Bureau's force. Men skilled in insurance, in finance, in journalism, have been employed, without regard to section or political affiliations, to aid the Commissioner of Corporations to assemble accurate and minute information relative to the operations of business concerns of all sorts and sizes. The corporation laws of the several States and Territories, including those of the insular possessions, are being studied and compared, with the ultimate view of bringing harmony out of the present chaotic conditions which are such a fruitful source of corporation abuses and popular misapprehension. Skilled agents and expert statisticians are kept constantly in the field reporting upon the methods and operations of those great aggregations of capital called, loosely, trusts.

By the digests of these reports President Roosevelt is enabled to keep in closer and more intimate touch with the operations of the vast business enterprises of the country than were any of his predecessors, not even excepting Washington and his immediate successors, whose solicitude for the nation's weal, though not one whit greater, nevertheless was more easily manifested in deeds because the industrial system of the country was not so amazingly complex or delicate as it is now.

As distribution is such a vital factor in latter-day wealth production, the relations of the railroads to every industry of the country necessarily are occupying a vast deal of the attention of the Bureau of Corporations, in spite of the apparent attempt of the lawmakers to shield the transportation lines from contact with the new Executive Department. It is not unlikely, therefore, that developments in the near future will show that information obtained on this subject through Commissioner Garfield's direction was instrumental in determining the President's announced policy toward the railroads in the matter of the Federal regulation and control of rates.

It is thus shown that Mr. Garfield is placed at the very centre of those forces of the Government that have been stimulated into activity by President Roosevelt and his Cabinet advisers for industrial and economic reforms nation-wide in their sweep. The progress of events will show that the Commissioner of Corporations is the President's most trusted agent in the preparatory work of reform that is to mark the Roosevelt Administration. The conclusion, therefore, seems inevitable that James Rudolph Garfield will be almost as conspicuously identified with the new movement as even Theodore Roosevelt himself. It is for this reason that many men of discernment and insight into large affairs are already talking of him as the logical successor of President Roosevelt in 1908.

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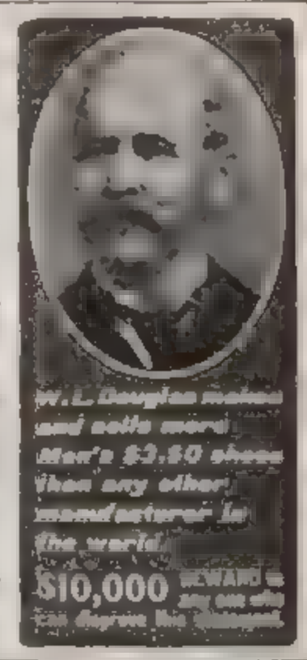

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By Henry A. Shute

Author of Sequil, or Things Whitch Aint Finished in the First

EXETER, NEW HANSHIRE, ——, 186—

DEAR BEANY, i got your letter and the 25 cents but it come two late Beany. she is mad with me. i will tell you all about it as long as you were buly enuf to send me the money. if you cood sent it jest a day before she woodent have been mad but i gess it woodent have done mutch good becaus she wanted somthing all the time and i wood have to be prety ritch to buy her something every day. i have been most crazy i have been so retched and i most wished i was ded. i tell you Beany they aint ennything so bad as to have your girl get mad with you and keep mad espesialy when she goes with a nother feller. if a girl gets real mad and runs her tung out at you and says she wont never speek to you agen, you can most always make up by giving her some of old Si Smiths goozeberrys or some juju paist or sometimes some new gum that aint been chewed, but when she goes of with a nother feller becaus he is biger than you and can lick you then they aint no use. and when that other feller and you has a fite and he licks you they aint no use neether. i tell you Beany it is tuff. they has been times when i have lost my best rooster or had him get licked by Ed Toles and i never yipped, but this was the wirst thing i ever had hapen to me. now Beany you cross your throte not to tell and hope to die two and i will tell you about it. jest as soon as you wright me that i will tell you all about it if I am not ded or in jale for i may do some auful thing i feel so tuff

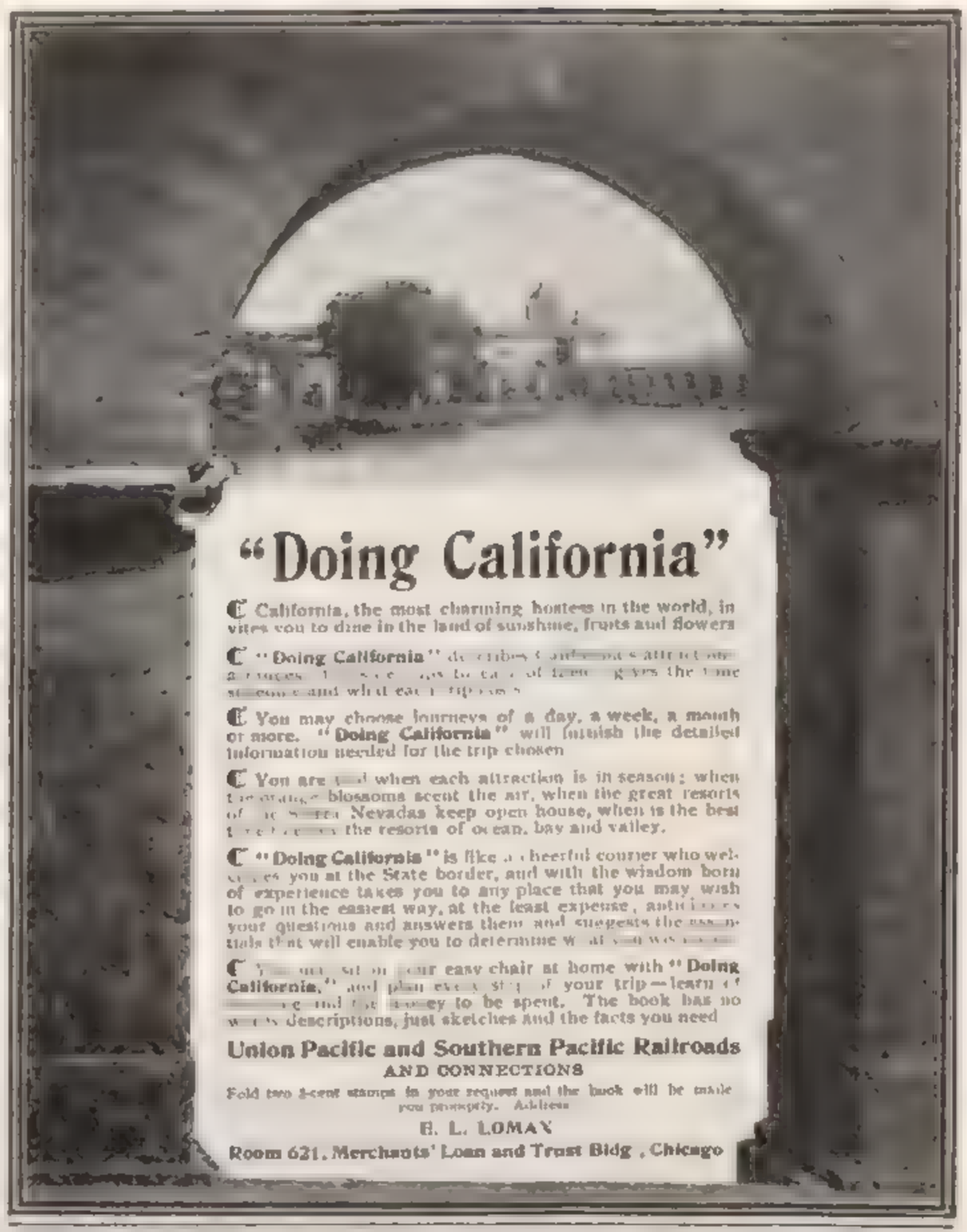
Yours very respectively, PLUPY.

EXETER, NEW HANSHIRE, ——, 186—

Dear Beany, all rite i will tell you all about it only dont you forget that you have crossed your throte and hoped to die. well it is a prety tuff story and shows how meen a girl can be. i dont beleeve enny girl ever liked a feller xcept for what she can get out of him. perhaps you dont beleeve so Beany but i do. well this girl, and i aint going to wright her name down but i will tell you when you come home Beany if you ever are coming, but i wont wright it. well she wanted me to give her 1 of those waches that wind up with a key and click jest like a real wach. some of the girls has got them and she wanted one. they cost 35 cents and I dident have a red cent for i had spent it all on her. she was kind of mad about the lobster neck chane and she said I wood be a mean feller if I dident give her a wach and she said Fatty Melcher wood give her one if she wood go with him. so i went down to Lane and Rollins and asked them if they wood trust me for the wach father told me that he wood lick time out of me if i ever got trusted for ennything. i dont see why he shood get mad at me for it becaus he always gets trusted at old Si Smiths for things and every month when he pays his bill he and old Si has a row and they jaw and swear and bimeby they get over their mad and father pays the bill and old Si gives father a segar whitch burns up all one side and curls up and father throws it away and swears about it. well ennyway old Lane woodent trust me for the wach and then i tride to borrow the money. i asked Fatty and Fatty he dident have enny money and then i asked Pewt and Pewt he said he dident have enny chink and then I asked you and i knew you wood get it if you cood. well what do you think. Fatty Melcher had been trying to cut me out and i gess he had been saving up his chink. ennyway he went down to old Lanes and he bought a wach and give it to her and i met her with it on and i asked where she got it and she said it wasent enny of my business, ennyway it wasent me whitch give it to her becaus i was two meen to give her ennything xcept old smelly lolster chanes and things whitch dident cost me ennything and she said she wasent going to go with me enny more

i wondered who give her the wach but I dident know until the next day when i saw Fatty Melcher walking with her and when

Editor's Note—This is the last of Judge Shute's series of Plupy's letters to Beany.



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they saw me they both begun to lafi as hard as they cood and talk together and woodent look at me. well the next day i met Fatty and he rooted me of the sidewalk and i asked him if he wanted enny part of me and he give me a nother root and I give him a paist in the mouth and he give me one in the eye and we went at it and he got me down and i turned him and then he turned me and we roled into the gutter and he got on top of me and lammed me and bimeby old Bill Greenleef he come up and grabed Fatty and puled him of and shook him up lifely for licking a feller whitch wasent as big as he was Fatty he give me a black eye and a skined nose and my mouth was all swole up but i dident yip. well when i went home mother washed my eye and put some brown paper and viniger and some of docter Derborns sarve on it and told me i coodent go out of the yard until father come home, and when father come home he asked me what i was fiting about and i said Fatty rooted me of the sidewalk and i give him one and then we had it. he asked me what Fatty rooted me for and i said i dident know becaus i hadent done nothing to him only he jest come up and give me a root and i said i gess i has jest as good a rite on the sidewalk as he had. then father he asked me if i had enny truble with Fatty and I said that Fatty hadent yipped to me and i hadent yipped to him but Fatty he jest come up and give me a slam and i give him a paist and then we fit and he was bigger than me and got me down and licked me and father he asked me if I holered enuf and i said i bet i dident and if he wanted to know he cood ask old Bill Greenleef, so that nite father he see Bill down town and asked Bill and Bill he said i fit good and dident yip and when father come home he give me 25 cents but it was two late, so that is all they was about it Beany only it is prety tuff on me. i aint so very mad with Fatty only me and Fatty was frends and i dident supose he wood play it on me like that

Yours very respectively, PLUPY

EXETER, NEW HAMSHIRE, ——, 186—

Dear Jenny you needent get mad about your old 25 cents. if you dident want to trust me for it what did you lend it to me for. i woodent have asked you for it if i hadent thaugt you wood be willing to lend it to me. enyway i will pay it the ferst job i can get. i know money is a prety good thing to have but i havent got enny now or i wood send it to you. i think i can rase it in a few weeks. aint it about time for you to come home. they dont seem to be ennyone to rase time with now you aint here. i have been thinking a good deal lattly about what is the use of trying to be desent. i think the feller whitch rases time has more fun than the feller whitch tries to be desent. all xcept Potter Goram and they aint any feller jest like Potter. so if you will come home Beany we will ring some doorbells and try and trip up some peeple with ropes.

Yours very respectively, PLUPY.

EXETER, NEW HAMSHIRE, ——, 186—

Dear Beany, if i was you i woodent have mutch to do with the girls. you know you are prety easy to get liking a girl but if you aint carful you will get it plaid on you jest like i did and then you will wish you hadent. i send you a ten cent scrip of the 25 cents i owe you. i got this for washing a wagon for old Head. i am going to wash a nother for him tomorrow or next day and i will pay you that. i have been in swiming every day most this summer. i can throw my hat into the middle of the river and then dive in and swim under water and come up with the hat on my head none of the other fellers can do it. i have lerned to turn back and frunt somersets and do the whirlagig only i cant flote. i gess i am two skiny. i gess if i have good luck i can send that 5 cents prety soon.

Yours very respectively, PLUPY.

EXETER, NEW HAMSHIRE, ——, 186—

Dear Beany, Buly. i am so glad you are coming home. i will be on hand wating for you at the depot. Joe Parner has got a new pair of horses on his back and Charles Tole and Mager Blake has a fite most every day over passengers for the beach. they is lots to do. Perry Moltons apples are ripe enuf to hook and old Missis Sawyers doorbell and Ike Shats doorbell two hasent been rung all summer and i gess if we don't trip up old Hobbs before long it wont be our falt. i will be there Beany when the cars come in and i will have some of old Si Smiths gooseberrys two

Yours very respectively, PLUPY.

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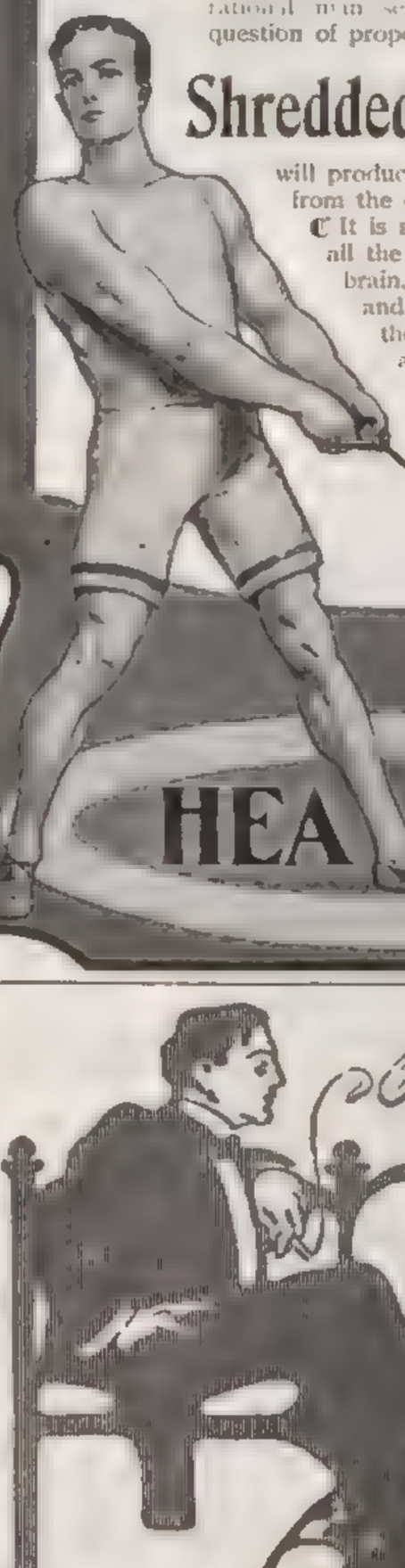

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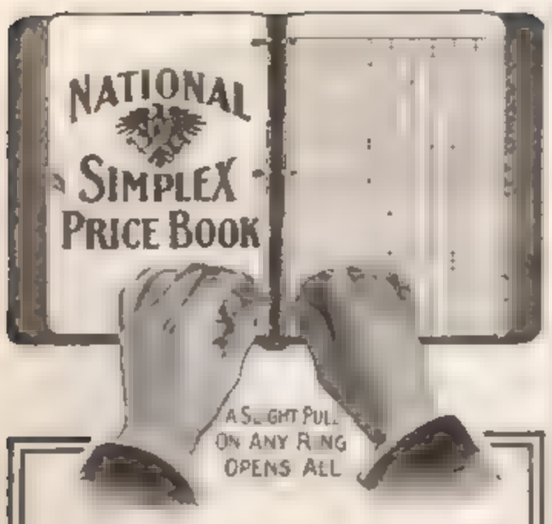

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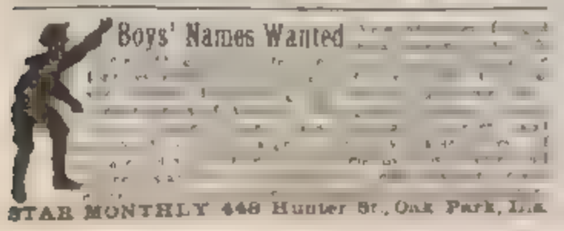

STAR MONTHLY 448 Hunter St., Oak Park, Ill.

Literary Folk
Their Ways and Their Work

A BIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS MOORE—What a modern Irishman thinks of Ireland's first national poet.

¶ If it is hard to make a good biography it is harder to make a good literary biography; for death has not ended the campaigns of the soldier of ideas, and the call of the poet echoes and his semblance beckons long after his voice is stilled and his substance dissolved. After telling the story of a life it becomes necessary to write the history of a name.

"Sudden fame acquired with little difficulty," says Stephen Gwynn of his countryman, Moore, "suffers generally a period of obscuration after the compelling power which attaches to a man's living personality has been removed, and from this darkness it does not always emerge. Of such splendor and subsequent eclipse, Moore's fate might be cited as the capital example." So it might. Byron was another example, though in his case the eclipse was partial and of no import to his lasting name. To-day Stevenson furnishes, perhaps, a better parallel. There was little of "compelling power" in either the Irishman or the Scot, but both had in the true sense an attractive personality—they drew men. Moore's, no doubt, stands the larger figure: to quote again, "He was in his own country for at least three generations the delight and consolation of the poor. In Ireland his poetry is still, as a matter of course, familiar to all Irishmen of the Nationalist persuasion, young and old. And for the older men he has lost none of his magic—for they remember the day when many and many an Irish peasant, leaving his country for the New World, carried with him two books—Moore's Melodies and The Key of Heaven."

Between these two paragraphs—typically the first and last of the book—lie all the difficulties of a biography of Thomas Moore (Thomas Moore, by Stephen Gwynn, in English Men of Letters: *The Macmillan Company.*) To-day we are out of sympathy with much that Moore wrote and a great deal that he thought. Yet on his own times and on the great men of his times he left a profound impression. Byron was his close friend and devoted admirer; Scott said that "at a song Moore beats us all." Shelley and Landor had the highest opinion of his merit. Throughout his life he was befriended by political power and flattered by social position. A well-born, well-bred, well-educated society is—for the purposes of society—the most spontaneous and generous of democracies, and the poor son of a petty Dublin tradesman was always welcome and at ease at Bowood and Holland House. Mr. Gwynn does him justice here, as it was to be feared an Irishman might not. Moore paid his way, as every one must, but not in snobbery. He was the best of company; men liked him and women, too—and there's an end of it. Haydon, the painter, is quoted for a description of the charm that made him sought for and courted at the great houses: "Met Moore at dinner and spent a very pleasant three hours. He told his stories with a rapid hit-or-miss air, as if accustomed to people of rapid apprehension. It being asked at Paris who they would have as godfather for Rothschilds' child, 'Talleyrand,' said a Frenchman. '*Pourquoi, monsieur?*' '*Parcequ'il est le moins chrétien possible.*' Unless one had heard Moore tell the above story of Talleyrand it would have been impossible to conceive the air of half-suppressed impudence, the delicate light-horse canter of phrase with which the words floated out of his sparkling Anacreontic mouth."

Much of Moore's "sudden fame" was owed directly to this social charm. For many years it was a regular practice of his to go up to town for a month or two to sing his melodies, and he seems always to have counted the evening a failure when he could not bring the tears. "One must bear in mind," says

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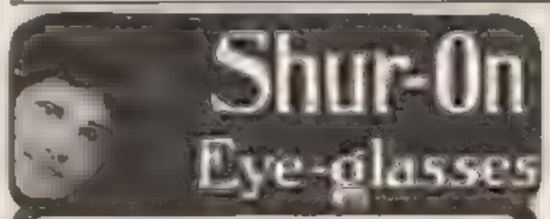

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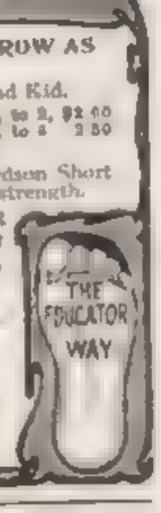

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Mr. Gwynn, "that Moore's lyrics are verse written for public entertainment, designed to produce their impression instantly, and not to sink slowly into the mind: and it is useless to compare them with the packed thought of Shakespeare's sonnets. . . . There is, however, a class of verse to which [illegible] is simple as a bird's, dealing in the simplest emotions, free from all taint of rhetoric. And in that class I do not think that anything of Moore's can be placed. . . . Throughout, the poetry of Moore's lyrics lies very close to eloquence, and is remote from that distinctive quality of the highest poetic expression which transcends rhetoric altogether.

This is wise and discriminating criticism. It is more: it shows a true selective instinct when, in a final passage of appreciation, it seizes on Moore's peculiar service to his art:

"Moore's importance in the history of literature lies in his connection not with English but with Irish literature. . . . The other Irishmen who had shown great literary talent—Burke, Goldsmith and Sheridan belonged body and soul to English letters. Moore's case was different. Almost without knowing it, he wrote primarily for his own countrymen, and in return they honored him. He had given voice to Ireland as had put into her mouth a song of her own."

Moore's life was not happy; he was almost perpetually in want of money, and he lived to know his talents dwindling and to be disappointed in those of his children who did not die. But it was an honorable and spirited life. The young Anacreon was always a devoted son, and he made a faithful and affectionate husband and father. Mr. Gwynn tells his story undemonstratively, with quiet good judgment and even-tempered humanity. He brings the man out of the facts and the artist out of the man. His book is an excellent piece of critical biography.

THE MEN WHO EAT SMOKE AND SPIT BLACK BUTTONS—Ten short stories of the fire-fighters.

¶ The American short story has much of the quality of American illustration—it is often a thing faultlessly executed, with stroke on stroke of dash and daring, with a sense for perfection of form that makes one think of Kipling's

The Celt is in brain and heart,
The Gaul is in his hand;

but too often it lacks weight and mass. Many magazine stories are delightful, but few are memorable.

With such work as The Smoke Eaters, by Harvey J. O'Higgins (*The Century Company*), there is absolutely no fault to find. Of their kind they are as good as they could well be. The men are there—the men who "eat smoke and spit black buttons," the fire-fighters. What could be better than grizzled old Captain Meagher when he resolves against any further commerce with heroes? "They don't do," says the captain; "they don't do. . . . I might've knowed Brunton couldn't 've done the things he's done an' have good sense. I might've knowed it. . . . These here—heroes—I don't want no more of them! They're no good! They're no—good!" Yes, the men are there, the noise, the hurry, the color, all the intensity of the moment; but somehow, as with so much other excellent work, they do not carry beyond the moment.

A LITERARY GHOST—The return of Sherlock Holmes, and the memories he awakens.

¶ It seems a pity that Sherlock Holmes had to return. The Return of Sherlock Holmes (by A. Conan Doyle; *McClure Phillips & Co.*). As a literary possibility the story of ratiocination was fully developed by Edgar Allan Poe, who had the good sense to drop it when it was exhausted. As a *passe-temps* it served again under another name and with the addition of [illegible] for another generation; but the element of the picturesque has become familiar there is nothing new in the method or the material itself, and Holmes, having seized the moment and made the most of it, had done better to trust his own instinct for retirement. Unless—he needed the money? But the author rarely does wisely who listens to the approaches of publishers anxious to repeat a success; his own instinct is the safest guide, Sherlock Holmes, despite this reappearance, is dead. He died ten years ago, and his memoirs were given to the world.

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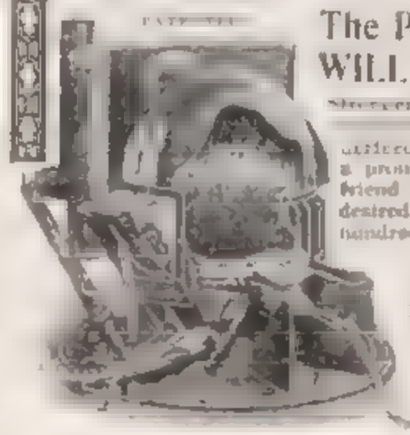

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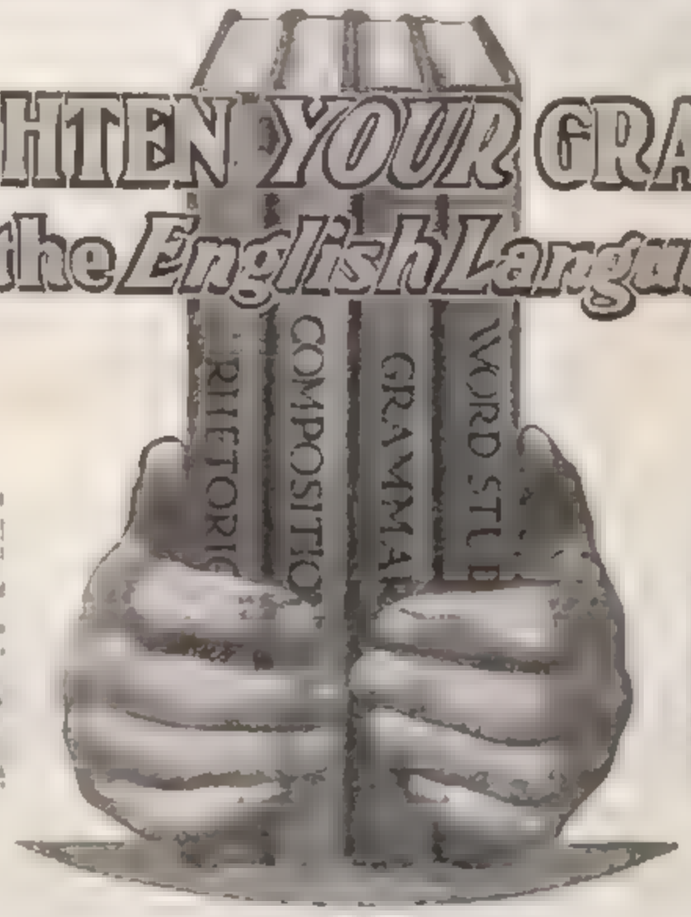

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"ARE THE PERFECTION OF BLENDS"

Made in nine sizes from the finest tobacco. Try the Famabella, "Puritanos" size, ten cent straight.

"Conchas" size, three for twenty-five cents. If not on sale in your City, we'll supply you direct.

The names of the Presidents and their Cabinets from Washington to Roosevelt up to date are contained in a beautifully illustrated booklet that we will send you FREE, on request.

THE INDEPENDENCE CO., Dep't. "D," Detroit, Mich.

The Reading Table

Smartweed and Ticklegrass

Expensive Persiflage

Said the wag in the auto: "You're quite run down,"
To the man he had just knocked over,
"And you ought to take something." The man said: "True,
So I'll just take your number!" He did take it, too,
And a judge fined the reckless rover.

Within and Without

Some men declare it's hard to live
Within their incomes. Who can doubt them?
But, very likely, it would give
Still more distress to live without them

Beyond Hope

"And while the lamp holds out to burn
The vilest sinner may return,"
So hopeful mortals tell us:
He may return some things, 'tis true,
But did you ever know him to
Return purloined umbrellas?

—*Nixon Waterman*

At the Shirtwaist Counter

I DON'T pretend to know very much about women's clothes, but I can't help overhearing dialogues between shoppers and saleswomen what time I am waiting for change. And I am always lost in admiration of the saleswoman's patience and diplomacy.

A young, pretty and ingenuous woman stops at the shirtwaist counter and says:

"Are they wearing white shirtwaists now?"

"Oh, yes, indeed! They are worn a great deal."

"Do you think I would look well in white?"

"White would look especially well on you. Here are some very nice waists that we sold a great many of last season at $7.94. This year you can get this for $4.96."

"Why did you mark them down?"

"There was such a demand for them we had to."

"Well, I don't believe I care to get a white one after all, because they must soil so easily."

"Oh, yes, they do soil easily! Here is a brown one that is very becoming to your style."

"Is it marked down?"

"No, these aren't marked down. They're worth twice what we ask for them, and we won't mark them down at all. Don't have to. They are $4.96."

"I rather like brown."

"Oh, yes, brown's your color. Shall I have it wrapped up?"

"Er—no, I believe not, because brown doesn't look well in daylight on me. I think that blue one—what do you think of the blue one?"

"Well, now, I was going to say that if I was getting it for myself I'd get blue. Brown will fade, but blue is always serviceable."

"And it's more dressy, don't you think?"

"Oh, decidedly more dressy!"

"I've been told that I look rather well in blue."

"Oh, one wouldn't need to do more than look at you to see that! With your auburn hair blue is the color. And these shirtwaists were some that were made to sell at $10.49, and at the last minute they decided to let them go at $3.98."

"My, isn't that a great reduction?"

"Well, but the goods are worth it. They can stand a reduction. Some things look cheap the minute you reduce them, but these have a real air. You'd look lovely in one of those."

"Well, really, it's awfully nice in you to say so, but my husband doesn't like blue."

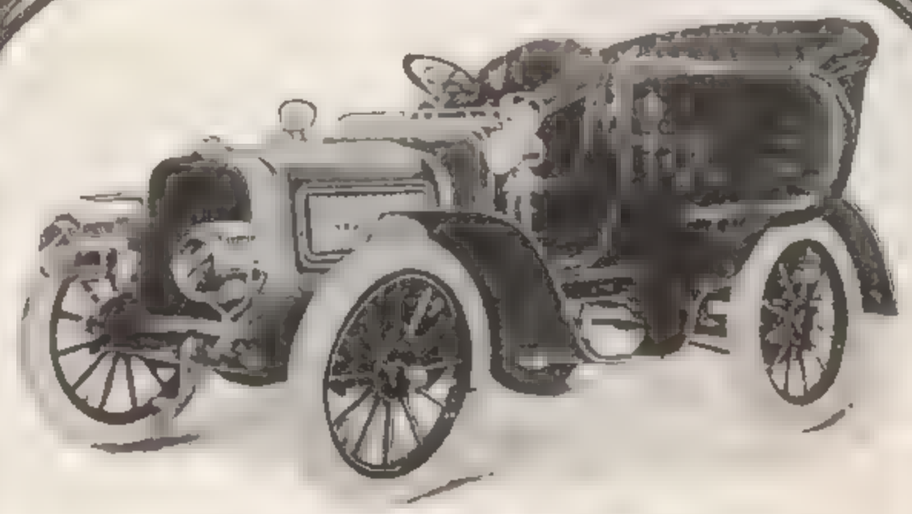
"Oh, of course blue isn't exactly a man's color, but you'd look awfully well in it."

"My husband thinks that pink is most becoming to me, but pink does show every spot so."

"Not these pinks. Here is one at $8.96 that is warranted not to show spots. It was just made for you. If your hair were a shade nearer red it wouldn't do at all."

"Mercy, I never thought of my hair! Auburn and pink would never do."

The Last Mile a Minute Car



The New Front Entrance 1905 "Toledo" $3,200

IN body designing as in mechanical ideas and construction it is our policy to keep well in advance. For beauty of line, symmetry, convenience and comfort, the Pope-Toledo New Front Entrance Car will instantly appeal to discriminating buyers who want to get away from the old style rear entrance, as well as the now conventional side entrance. Prompt deliveries. **Price** With Standard Equipment . . . **$3,200.**

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LINEN 15c EACH

MARINE

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Send for catalogue which is free.

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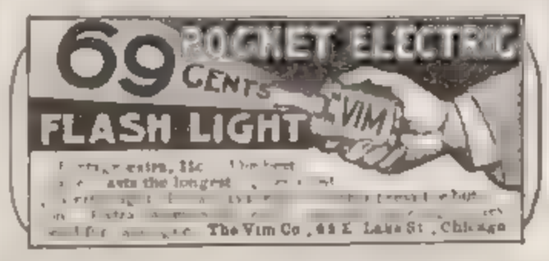

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on the label and Pure White Lead in the keg are two different things. The question of purity in paint is far too important to every house-owner to allow any room for doubt. It means much more than the cost of the paint because of the cost of labor involved.

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The Improved Method of
FINISHING FLOORS

time counts old or new, for rugs or

GRIFFIN MFG CO
Dept 4 Newark New York

"I think you'd be wiser not to buy such a pronounced pink as this.'

"I believe I'll look at the brown again You say they don't fade?"

"Oh, no, brown is a fast color

"But, after all, I think I'd better take blue because—

'Most men really like blue you know

"Yes, but my husband has an antipathy to it. I guess I'll look at the white, after all You say they don't show dirt?"

"Oh, no, white is the most serviceable of all, because you can wash it

'You haven't any other colors? Have you green? I think green might go with my hair.'

Yes but we haven't anything in green that would appeal to you. Our green shirt waists are not over three dollars, because there's so little demand for them that we don't make them up in expensive patterns But I think you'll like the white. Shall I wrap up this one?'

"Yes, I think I'll take it How much did you say?"

$ .91

"But I thought you said it had been marked down to $4.96."

"Yes, we marked down one in every but the one you looked at has just been taken by that lady walking off. But you'll find you'll get more comfort out of this at $7.94 than out of the other, for it was shop-worn, and white will show dirt."

"Oh, then I don't believe I'd better take it

"Oh, I mean on the counter; never when it's worn. You'll find this will wear Thanks; shall I have it sent?"

—Charles Battell Loomis

Waiting for a Jury to Grow

"I HAVE a case still pending in a South Georgia Justice-Court that has been there since 1879," remarked Judge Spencer R. Atkinson, former Justice of the Supreme Court, to a group of friends at the Capitol Of course they had to ask Judge Atkinson for particulars.

'Soon after I began the practice of law the Judge continued, "I took a case for a client involving a verbal contract for building a log cabin. The amount involved was less than $100, so suit was brought in the Justice-Court of the little country district where the defendant, the owner of the log cabin, lived. By consent of all parties the matter was referred to a jury. The first jury came in with a mistrial

Another jury was called, and there was another mistrial. And so it went on for six or seven terms of court, each successive jury failing to reach a verdict

"Then, one day, just before it was time to call the case up for submission to the seventh or eighth jury, I received this note from the Justice of the Peace

'*Dear Sir:* I write this to let you know the case of Beckham agin Lyles cannot be tried no more in this court. You have used up all the juries in the district and it won't be possible to get no more juries until some grows up or some new folks moves in. I have wrote the same notice to the other side. Yours truly, P. WILLIAMS, Justice of the Peace, 497 district G. M.'

"With that we dropped the case by common consent and have been waiting ever since for a new jury to grow

Uncle Ephraim's Notes of Spring

OLE Mistah Wintah ain't no gentlemen onless he bow he self out 'fore de woodpile git low

Missie Spring am de flower gal what makes de pathway fer Missus Summer's weddin'

Bluebird sing mighty high, but he doan't shake de feber out ob ole Eph's bones

Early fish catches de worm, all right, but swallers de hook, too—an' den fer de frying-pan an' de fiah!

Tadpole 'ud be heap happier ef he didn't worry 'bout gittin' inter his frog clothes.

Plantin' de crop by de light ob de moon am good enough, providin' dar am plenty ob hoein' when de seeds come up.

Dreamin' ob watermillions am mighty pleasant, but it ain't bery fillin'.

Sly spring mole am like a liah—he works in de dark undah de groun', but 'most enny-body kin foller his track

When de widder man whitewashes his fence it's er sign he's gwine ter be er candidate fer ernuther term ob mattermony

Birds h'v too much sense ter look fer eggs in las' year's nes's, but some people wid brains turn pockets inside out 'spectin' ter find er nickel in las' spring's ves'.

"The Resister"

Rex Flintkote ROOFING

Resists Trouble

Any Careful Laborer Can Lay It Well

REX FLINTKOTE may be laid by *any* man, by following the plain directions—not only that, but everything required (except a hammer is in each roll. The labor is simple and quick—so different from shingles or tin

REX FLINTKOTE roofing is made of long fibre wool felt, saturated with an acid, alkali and water-proof material, both sides being coated with water-proof and fire-resisting compounds protected by a coating of flint—it is, therefore, fire-resisting and water, temperature, acid, alkali and rot-proof.

Our Handsome Booklet on roofing is sent with samples also photos of REX FLINTKOTE buildings—all kinds We

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In Rain or Sun every woman is delighted with the neat appearance and many other excellences of the

Worth Cushion Sole Shoe

with patent cushion sole. So made they are always comfortable and wearers avoid corns, bunions and sore feet. Price $3 and $3.50. Catalogue Free.

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Flexo MEN'S **Garter**

fit perfectly, hug the limb comfortably without binding, never let go of the hose, never tear them, last longest, look neatest—are best garters.

Sold by all dealers. Insist on Flexo, and if the dealer has not them, send us his name and 25c and we will see that you are supplied. Flexo Garters in fine heavy [illegible], 50c

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and Brooders are the oldest and most reliable machines on the market to-day. Devices purely automatic and sure. Catalogue FREE

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"SAVE-THE-HORSE" Spavin Cure

Registered Trade-Mark.

WM. E. SELLERS, Practical Horseshoeing,
814-16 Jefferson St., Philadelphia, Pa.

I cured a bad bone spavin with less than [illegible] of "Save-the-Horse," gave the rest [illegible]

Kaukauna, Wis., July 29.
Used blisters for nearly [illegible] cured, but to no effect other than [illegible] April 1 purchased a bottle of "Save-the-Horse" and by the time I used half [illegible] completely cured the lameness and [illegible] T. B. DAKIN

$5.00 Per Bottle with [illegible] copy of guarantee, [illegible] of letters to confirm and convince. [illegible] Dealers or Express paid.

One-third of a bottle of "Save-the-Horse" cured my horse of a spavin that he had been lame and blistered see [illegible] M. M. OSBORN

Save the Horse" Permanently Cures [illegible], Ringbone (except low ringbone), Curb, Thoroughpin, Splint, Shoe Boil, Wind Gall, Injured Tendons and all lameness without scar or loss of hair. Horse may work as usual

TROY CHEMICAL CO., Binghamton, N. Y.

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Generally speaking a man gets what he is worth to the world; sometimes he may get less, sometimes more, but such are exceptional cases.

The surest way for a man to get a good salary is for him to make himself valuable—indispensable if possible. The world pays for what a man does—not for what he might do—not for undeveloped talents—not for dormant abilities.

The International Correspondence Schools have done more to increase the earning power of the young men of America than any other influence that this country has ever known. They have done this by giving young people an opportunity to gain the necessary technical education in occupations for which they have natural aptitude; they put their students on the road to success because they make them what the world calls for—trained specialists—not jacks-of-all-trades.

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These courses are inexpensive, costing from $10 up, with all text-books furnished. Read over the list of courses given in the coupon below, decide which is best suited to your tastes, then fill in, cut out, and mail to us the coupon, and we will give you full details of how we can qualify you for the position which you choose. At the same time we will send you our booklet **"1001 Stories of Success,"** telling what the Schools have done for some of our students.

International Correspondence Schools,
Box 1171, SCRANTON PA.
Please send me your booklet, "1001 Stories of Success," and explain how I can qualify for the position before which I have marked X

Bookkeeper	Electrician
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Show Card Writer	Mechanical Engineer
Window Trimmer	Mechanical Draughtsman
Mechanical Draughtsman	Stationary Engineer
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Civil Service	Architectural Draughtsman
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Name

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The new magnificent steamers of the Pacific [illegible] Broadway

PACIFIC MAIL S. S. CO., San Francisco, Cal.

DRAW for MONEY

ILLUSTRATORS AND CARTOONISTS EARN LARGE SALARIES Commercial Engraving

The Students' Press Association, 6 The Bourse, Indianapolis, Ind.

The Speculations of John Steele

(Continued from Page 9)

I don't know what to do, here comes my chance! I'll bet a farm Vernon is going to offer me the vice-presidency of the road. I'll take it like a shot, and raise the freight rates on soap if Vernon will let me."

He seized a telegraph form and wrote:

> Heartiest congratulations. The right [illegible] in the right place. You need not [illegible] to New York, as I am leaving for [illegible] and to relieve your mind of any anxiety I shall accept your opening, whatever it is.

In the [illegible] post John Steele was closeted with his friend Vernon in the president's room in the huge Wheat Belt building. The great flat table in the centre was covered over with broad maps taken from the civil engineer's department, maps unknown to the general public.

"Now, Jack," said his friend, "I'm in a position to offer you the absolute surety of [illegible] money."

"Thunder!" said Jack in a tone of disappointment; "I thought you were going to offer me the vice-presidency of the road."

Vernon looked up at him surprised.

"Would you take it?" he said.

"Take it? Of course; that's what I thought I was engaging to do when I telegraphed from New York."

"Why, no sooner said than done, Jack. I'd no idea you wished to get back into the railway business. I should think a man who can make millions outside wouldn't be content to sit here at a salary of ten or fifteen thousand a year."

"I'm tired of making millions," said Jack.

"You don't mean to say," protested Vernon, with something like dismay in his words—"you don't mean to say you won't go in with us? Why, I took your telegram as consent, and, to tell the truth, because I could thus guarantee the bringing in of a big capitalist, I have induced others to join, and secured an extra slice for myself."

"Where there are millions to be made," said Jack dubiously, "there is a risk, and I had decided not to take any more chances."

"There is no chance about this, Jack; it is a sure thing, and the development of it rests entirely in my hands. You can double your money and pull out within ten days after I give the word, and I'll give the word whenever you say so."

"What's your project, Vernon?"

"Well, you see, the Wheat Belt Line, which has been one of the most prosperous roads in the country for some years past, is going to build a branch running 270 miles northwest until it taps the Wisconsin Pacific. This red line shows you where the road will run. The Wheat Belt Line has secured all the timber land on each side, but the former president, whose place I have taken, and myself, have an option on the prairie and the stump lands where timber has been cut. The president resigned simply to give his whole time to this land company, and that's why I'm in his place. Now, we can get the property at prairie value just now, but the minute we begin surveying up it will jump. You can trust me to keep my word. If you join us I shall give the order for surveying the line the moment deeds of the land are in our possession."

"How much money do you expect me to put up, Vernon?"

"You couldn't go $20,000,000, I suppose?"

"Twenty millions! Heaven and earth, no! It would practically clean me out to furnish $9,000,000."

"I mentioned the bigger amount simply because I am sure you will double your money within a month, and the more you put in the more you're going to pull out. You see, this is not a speculation, but an absolute certainty."

For a few minutes Jack Steele walked up and down the room, hands deep in his pockets, as was his custom, brow wrinkled and head bent. At last he said, with the old ring of decision in his voice:

"All right, Vernon, I'll go in; but if I fail you must give me the vice presidency as a sort of consolation prize."

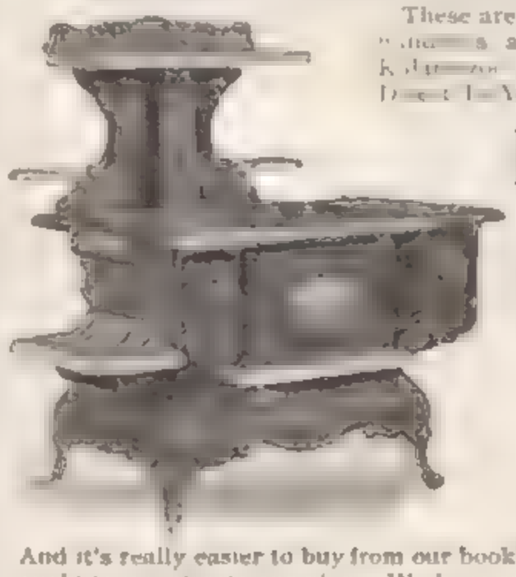
"I'll give it to you now," said Vernon; "but it can't fail. I tell you everything is in my hands. It is not as if this were any bluff. The proposed line is a road that is becoming more and more needed every day, and the land is good for the money, even if the road was never built. It's as safe as Government bonds."

A Kalamazoo Direct to You

Oven Thermometer

MR. J. E. BURNS, of Silver Spring, Md., under date of January 4th, 1905, writes:
Some months ago we purchased a Kalamazoo Range; it reached us in good shape, and is really better than I expected for the money. We would not take $50 for it. The oven thermometer is wonderful; my wife is 'tickled to death with it.'

MR. JOHN T. SMITH, of Bowling Green, Ky.
"We have been using the Kalamazoo Range every day since we received it, and it is giving perfect satisfaction. The range we formerly used cost $[illegible]. It did no better work than this one does, and we feel sure that the Kalamazoo *will last twice as long* and cost but *little more than one-third*."



These are fair samples of the letters we receive by the [illegible] and thousands from satisfied purchasers of Kalamazoo Stoves and Ranges. It's the Kalamazoo Direct to You that gives you the opportunity of buying

Direct from Our Factory

at the lowest factory prices a stove or range of the highest quality on 360 Days Approval

Freight Prepaid

Guaranteed under a $20,000 bond, and your money back if you want it. If it's a ***Kalamazoo***, its ***tried*** and ***true***

You might just as well buy of the manufacturers and save $10 or $30. It's better in your pocket than in the middleman's till. And it's really easier to buy from our book than from your local dealer. At any rate you ought to investigate our plan. We have sold to thousands of readers of THE SATURDAY EVENING POST and have satisfied them. We want the opportunity of showing you.

SEND POSTAL FOR CATALOG No. 152

Compare our quality and prices with those of your local dealer and see for yourself. Our line embraces ranges, cook stoves, heaters and base burners for all kinds of fuel, all of superior workmanship and the latest patterns. The accompanying illustration shows our famous Kalamazoo Grand Range. All Kalamazoo cook-stoves and ranges are equipped with our patent oven thermometer, which makes baking and roasting easy. All stoves and ranges blacked, polished, ready for immediate use; any one can set them up. Write today.

Kalamazoo Stove Co., Manufacturers, Kalamazoo, Michigan

I Teach Jiu-Jitsu

AS IT IS TAUGHT

In Japan

YAE KICHI YABE
Late of the Tan-Shin Ryu School of Japan

WHEN I tell you that Jiu-Jitsu is the most wonderful system of physical training and self-defense in the world to-day, I am but repeating what hundreds of prominent Americans who have taken my course are writing me. These men enjoy better health, are stronger physically and more self-reliant for having mastered this ancient art.

It is to the persistent practice of Jiu-Jitsu that the Japanese owe their courage and success in battle, their almost superhuman strength and power of endurance, their low death rate and their material progress. Surely, a system of physical training and self-defense which has done so much for the Island Nation will interest YOU. Jiu-Jitsu not only embodies the ideal principles of obtaining perfect health and perfect physical development, but as a means of self-defense, it is as potent at short range as the deadliest weapon. A knowledge of its self-preserving principles renders a man or woman impregnable to every form of vicious attack.

FREE LESSONS IN JIU-JITSU

I have just written an intensely interesting book, which explains and makes clear the principles of Jiu-Jitsu in a manner unapproached by any American writer. So long as the edition lasts I will send, free of cost, to all interested readers of THE SATURDAY EVENING POST a copy of this valuable book, together with a specimen lesson from my course in Jiu-Jitsu. The lesson is fully illustrated, and teaches one of the most effective methods known for defense against the attack of a vicious assailant. This method has been adopted by various Police Departments throughout the United States. It is especially designed for defense against hold-ups and assaults, and should be mastered by every man and woman in this country. If employed by an alert boy of fifteen, it will enable him to overcome and render powerless a man of thrice his strength.

If you desire to learn all the closely guarded secrets of this marvelous science, write me, and you will receive this book and specimen lesson by return mail, postage paid. Address

YAE KICHI YABE, 380 L, Realty Bldg., Rochester, N. Y.

Autocar Type VIII $1400

A Wonderful Value

Type VIII Autocar at $1400 represents a wonderful automobile value. This type is the foundation of the Autocar's enviable reputation.

It is a car built upon honor throughout. There is nothing experimental about it—nothing uncertain in its construction. During 1904 Type VIII was tested on all sorts of American roads—under all kind of conditions. It has proved its reliability and efficiency so well as to put Autocar Type VIII in the very front of its class.

Last season Type VIII was sold for $1700 and was considered an unsurpassed value. The price of Type VIII is now $1400, because having built this model for so long we can now build it more economically. For the man who wants a thoroughly reliable four-passenger car at a moderate price Type VIII at $1400 is his opportunity.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Horizontal two-cylinder opposed engine—no noticeable vibration. Twelve actual horse-power. Oiled automatically. Water cooled.

Transmission, sliding gear type. Three speeds forward and a reverse. Ball bearing, shaft drive. No greasy, gritty chain. Front and rear construction has ball bearings throughout. Gasoline tank holds 10 gallons—sufficient on good roads for 200 miles.

Tonneau is removable. Front seat divided. Engine and transmission case are accessible from above without disturbing body. Catalogue giving full description of Type VIII, Type X Runabout and Type XI Four Cylinder Car, with dealer's name sent free upon request.

The Autocar Company, Ardmore, Pa.

Member Association Licensed Automobile Manufacturers.

It would be going over ground already sufficiently covered to recount the history of the Western Land Syndicate. Steele had resolved not to invest more than half his fortune, but once a man is involved in an important enterprise he rarely can predict where he will stop. A scheme grows and grows, and often the financier is compelled to involve himself more and more deeply in order to protect the money already ventured, and finally it becomes all or nothing. Besides this, every speculator has in his composition something of the gambler, and once the game has begun the betting fever has him in its clutch. Before a month was past John Steele had not only paid over every dollar he possessed, but had also become deeply indebted to his bank.

There was where he made his irretrievable mistake. As the president had said, the land was intrinsically worth the money paid for it, and if John Steele had merely risked his own bank account he might have been penniless for ten years, but at least he would have been sure of ultimately getting back what he paid, and probably a good deal more. But to borrow hundreds of thousands at sixty days, in the expectation that he would take profits enough to pay the loan before that time expired, was an action he himself, in less feverish moments, would have been the first to condemn.

On the afternoon of the day in which the payment on the land was made the president of the Wheat Belt Line entered the room of his subordinate with a piece of paper in his hand. His face was white as chalk, and he could not speak. He dropped into a chair before John Steele's desk, and the latter, with a premonition of what was coming, took the paper from his trembling hand. It was a telegram from New York, and ran as follows:

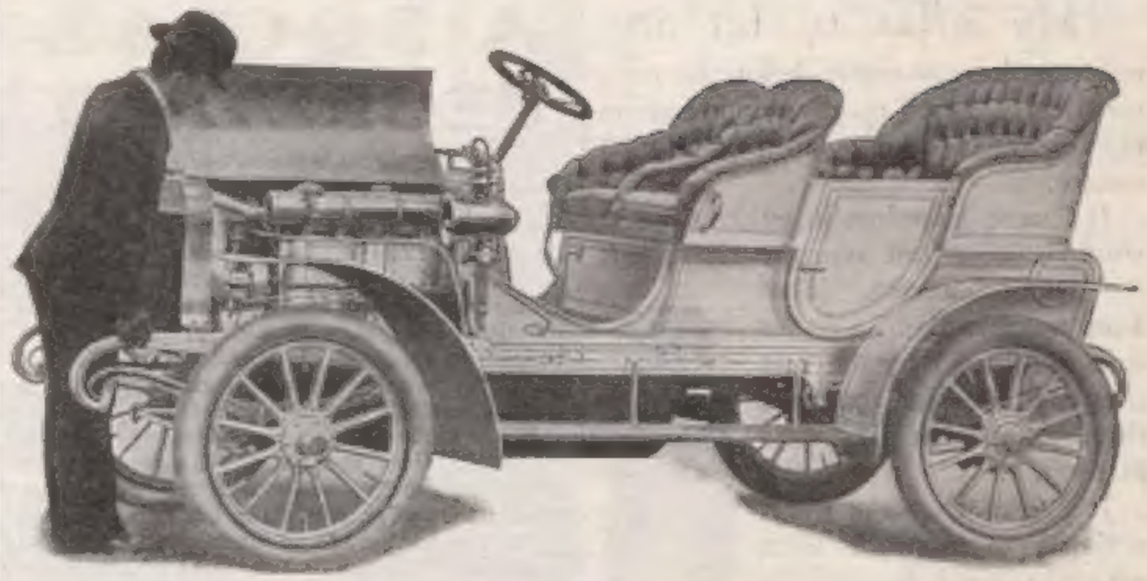
> The board of directors of the Wheat Belt System yesterday resolved to abandon the Wisconsin Pacific Branch. If the branch is built at all, which is doubtful, it will begin 170 miles west of the point formerly selected. You will therefore countermand at once any instructions previously given regarding the Wisconsin Pacific connection. The board also refuses to ratify the nomination of John Steele as vice-president of the road. NICHOLSON.

"Cheer up," said John with a laugh that sounded just a trifle hollow. "Cheer up, old man. I know all about this, and you're not in the least to blame. You acted in good faith throughout."

"It's horrible, John, horrible; but still, you know, you have the land: that will realize all you've put in before long."

"Yes, Vernon, I've got the land, that's one consolation." But he knew perfectly well he hadn't. He knew that when the sixty days were up the bank would foreclose, which was exactly what happened. There were practically no bidders for so large a plot, and Nicholson purchased the property for the exact amount owing to the bank.

The ruin of John Steele was complete.



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If you know of a fairer or more liberal way than that of getting cigars before the public, let me know about it.

All I ask is a fair judgment on my cigars. If they can't sell themselves, they're not sold.

No man need hesitate to send them back if they don't come squarely up to the standard I set for them.

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A SOCIAL SECRETARY

(Continued from Page 11)

succeed. Whatever benefit there may be in it will go not to him but to men like Senator Burke. He doesn't go any more than he can help, except to his own breakfasts. But he sends his wife, and so, without wasting any of his time, he makes himself prominent in a very short space of time and gets all the big social indirect influence—the influence of the women on their husbands.

Mrs. Burke's younger brother, Robert Gunton, arrived last night. He reminds me of her, but he's slender and very active—a shaggy sort of person, clean but careless, and he looks as if he had so many other things to think about that he hadn't time to think about himself. He looks younger and talks older than his years. He's here to get some sort of a patent through; he won't permit his brother-in-law to assist him; he refuses to go anywhere—in society, I mean. We rode up to the Capitol together in a street car this morning, and I liked him.

"Why do you ride in a street car?" he asked.

"Because it's not considered good form to use carriages too much," I replied. "It might rouse the envy of those who can't afford carriages."

"Then it isn't because you don't want to, but because you don't dare to?"

"Yes," said I. "But things are changing rapidly. The rich people who live here, but care nothing for politics, are gradually introducing class distinctions."

"You mean, poor people who like to fawn upon and hate the rich are introducing class distinctions," he corrected.

He is thirty-two years old; he treats a woman as if she were a man. And he treats a man as if he himself were one. It isn't possible not to like that sort of person.

Invitations are beginning to come in floods—invitations for the big, formal things for which people are asked weeks in advance. And we are getting a splendid percentage of acceptances for our big affairs, thanks to my taking the trouble to find out the freest dates in the season. If all goes well, before another month, as soon as it gets round that we are going to give something big in a short time, lots of pretty good people will be holding off from accepting other things in the hope that they're on our list.

Certainly, there's a good deal in going about anything in a systematic way—even a social launching.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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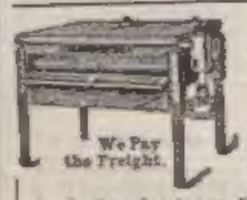

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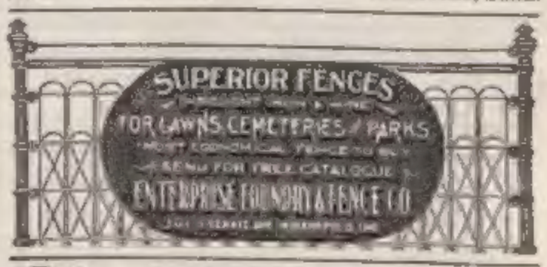

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EAST GREENWICH, R. I., Nov. 30, '04.
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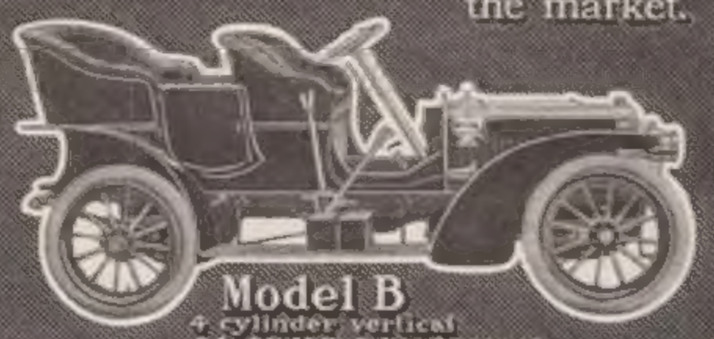

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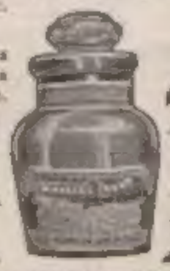

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Runabout
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